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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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NMC library director Gerbens steps down. PAGE 5

Search for missing surfer fails anew. PAGE 5

3 schools burglarized this summer

'Thousands of dollars worth of gadgets stolen'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Three public schools on island were burglarized during the summer break, with the criminals carting off thousands of dollars worth of important equipment and technologies for student learning.

Saipan Tribune learned that San Vicente Elementary School was robbed of over $7,000 worth of valuable equipment in two separate incidents.

SVES principal Joaquina DLG. Salas said that among the stolen items were a 40-inch TV monitor and about six laptops assigned to classroom teachers.

It was learned that the still unidentified suspects broke into the campus on two consecutive nights on July 8 and 9 when the school's security guard was on sick leave.

Salas said other instructional materials were also reported missing in some classrooms.

Saipan Tribune learned that

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RELATED NEWS
Schools report smooth opening. PAGE 2
GTC using cafeteria, campus stage for some classes. PAGE 7

Patient sues CHC over burned face during operation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A patient whose face was allegedly set on fire while undergoing operation at the Commonwealth Health Center sued the government hospital on Thursday, and the patient's lawyer hopes the House

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of September 8, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Saved!
A Philippine air force helicopter plucked to safety a woman who drifted for about 30 hours after the sinking of a ferry.

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College Life
The *Saipan Tribune* asks six college students from the CNMI to share their experiences and offer some advice to freshmen.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 17

ANTI-SMOKING ADVOCATES
Lawmakers join members of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition for a group photo in the legislative building lobby yesterday morning, right after the House passed on a 14-0 vote a bill banning smoking in all workplaces and public places. The bill is now on its way to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for action. ***See story on Page 3.***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Murder try charges vs Namauleg dropped

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who allegedly repeatedly stabbed a female garment worker, resulting in her being paralyzed, got off scot-free after the Office of the Attorney General withdrew all charges filed against him.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer moved to dismiss the charges against John Namauleg after the CNMI Supreme Court denied the government's petition to compel the Superior Court to use the victim's videotaped deposition during the trial.

At the hearing yesterday, Meyer said the Supreme Court's ruling forces them to drop the case against Namauleg.

The suspect was facing charges of attempted second-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and aggravated assault and battery.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C.

See MURDER on Page 4

House panel may obtain other federalization lawsuit records

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives directed its Ways and Means Committee yesterday to "consider" exercising its legal authority to obtain financial records on the pending CNMI lawsuit against federalization, giving it until Friday to make such a determination.

The financial records the House may request from the Fitial administration include those that are currently not available under the Open Government Act: the government's engage-

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Local

Schools report smooth opening

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The usual long lines and large crowds of bewildered students during school openings were prominently absent in most public schools yesterday, thanks in large part to advanced preparations that involved the participation of parents.

In Hopwood Junior High School, principal Christine Masga said they did not encounter any major concerns among students, parents and staff during the first day of classes. As early as 8am, students were seen attending their homeroom classes and school orientation sessions with their respective teachers.

As of 12pm yesterday, Hopwood had 1,157 enrollees comprising 587 seventh graders and 570 eighth graders. This is a slight increase from last year's 11,050.

Hopwood has 50 teaching staff and Masga expects three more teachers to arrive from off-island within the month.

Masga attributed the smooth class opening to the active involvement of parents this school year, who were able to submit the required documents of their children on time.

"I can say that this is one of the best school opening we have here at Hopwood and that's because we are stricter in our rules and parents are more involved now…unlike before," she told Saipan Tribune, adding that its first PTSA meeting is scheduled this week.

The school is requiring all its students to wear a T-shirt uniform that costs $95 apiece. Hopwood is encouraging parents to get three to five pieces for their students.

At the San Vicente Elementary School, principal Joaquina DLG. Salas said the school's smooth opening was the result of the first ever parent orientation held on Sept. 4, where over 200 parents participated.

"We used to have a congested situation during class opening but because we worked with the parents during our first ever orientation, it helped our process a lot," the principal said, adding that parents were provided a list of school supplies their children will need, the schedule of classes, and the bus transportation schedule.

As of yesterday, SVES had 671 enrollees. The number may still go up next week.

The school has 61 teaching staff. Salas estimates the student-to-teacher ratio this school year at 21:1.

She said all 32 classrooms are operational and they are just waiting for the completion of one kindergarten classroom. All 70 air-conditioning units are also working, Salas said.

In Dandan Elementary School, principal Jonas Barcinas expects a slight increase in enrollment this school year. As of yesterday, DES had 510 students from kindergarten to sixth grade, 64 of them new students.

Barcinas has 22 teaching staff. He still needs four teacher aides for the special education students.

The school's student-to-teacher ratio is at 27:1 at present due to the lack of five more classrooms, according to Barcinas.

As of yesterday, seven air-conditioning units were down, he said.

At Marianas High School, principal Karen Borja reported a total of 1,228 enrollees and 70 teaching staff, including special education instructors. Last school year, MHS opened with 1,218 students.

Like other principals, Borja described yesterday's opening as "smooth" and properly conducted.

Student-to-teacher ratio stands at below 30, according to the principal.

In Tanapag Elementary School, principal Frances Ulloa welcomed 206 enrollees on the first day of classes. The school has an estimated 24:1 student-to-teacher ratio this school year.

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This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

Call for Nominations
2009 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards. Individuals, groups and organizations may be nominated for significant contributions to the humanities in five categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities**
- **Preservation of CNMI History**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher**
- **Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities**

Nomination forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Humanities Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nomination forms must be received by the Humanities Council on or before **4:30 p.m. on 9 October 2009**. Awardees will be selected by a majority vote of the Council's board of directors.

Awards will be presented during the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremonies in October 2009. The time, date and venue of this event will be announced shortly. Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional information about the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

No-smoking bill clears House, now goes to Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has taken another step closer to banning smoking in all workplaces and public places after the House of Representatives passed yesterday the proposed Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008.

The measure, House Bill 16-47, HD2, SD1, CCS1, is now on its way to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for action.

The Senate passed the same bill on Thursday on a 7-0 vote.

In yesterday's House session, 14 members voted "yes" and one "abstained" from voting.

Four members had excused absence, while another one was not in the House chamber at the time of the voting.

When House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) confirmed that the bill passed on a 14-0 vote, members of health advocacy groups who were in the House chamber applauded.

Anti-smoking posters and banners urging support on H.B. 16-47 were posted on the House chamber's wall during the session.

George J. Cruz, chairman of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, thanked all the supporters of the bill and its author, Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan).

"The CNMI has taken a big step to prevent and address chronic diseases. We're very happy that this bill passed the House. We're hoping that the governor will sign it into law," Cruz said in an interview.

Fitial is currently in California and is expected to be back later this week.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the governor will have to go through the normal process—review the bill, receive comments and advice—before making a decision.

Last year, Fitial told the media that the market should dictate the smoking ban policy, and welcomed the moves by restaurants on Saipan to turn smoke-free, including Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tony Roma's and Capricciosa.

"I believe in free market forces and I applaud the private sector's voluntarily response to growing market demands for greater standards of public health and safety," said Fitial, a non-smoker.

Cruz said the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition also underscored the regional support that the legislation received, including those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii and Guam, as well as the U.S. mainland.

"We're not asking smokers to change but if they are, then there are services available to help them quit smoking," Cruz added.

Prohibitions

Under House Bill 16-47, HD2, SD1, CCS1, smoking is prohibited in all enclosed areas and outdoor areas within 25 feet of any doorway entrance or exit to a government facility. It also bans smoking in enclosed areas of public places.

Smoking is also prohibited in enclosed facilities within places of employment or within 25 feet of any person who is not smoking if the place or site of work is an outdoor area or area other than an enclosed area, without exception.

The smoking ban does not apply to bars, private residences, and retail tobacco stores, as well as hotel rooms and private rooms in nursing homes that are designated as smoking.

A person who smokes in a designated no-smoking area faces a penalty not exceeding $50 for a first violation, up to $100 for a second violation, up to $200 for a third and subsequent violation and the completion of a mandatory tobacco prevention and/or cessation course.

HOW THEY VOTED

The 14 House members who voted "yes": Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan), Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), and Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota).
Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) abstained.

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan) was not in the House chamber when the voting happened. Reyes owns a bar along Beach Road in Garapan called Joe's Bar & Grill.

Four members were absent because they were off-island: Floor Leader Joe Camacho, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian)

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No chaos emerges as Samoa changes driving side

By KENI LESA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

APIA, Samoa (AP)—Car horns and sirens sounded, church bells rang out and roads were crowded with vehicles and smiling drivers as Samoa became the first country in decades to officially switch from right-side to left-side driving.

Hundreds lined streets in the capital, Apia, to witness the early-morning switch Monday on the country's highways as police manned scores of checkpoints and warned drivers to keep their speed down.

The government is bringing Samoa in line with Australia and New Zealand to encourage some of the 170,000 expatriate Samoans there to ship used cars—with steering wheels on the right side—home to relatives.

There were no immediate signs of driving difficulties despite predictions of chaos from critics who accused the government of failing to adequately prepare drivers.

The switch was ushered in with a two-day national holiday to keep a lid on traffic and a three-day ban on alcohol sales to deter accidents.

National Council of Churches chairman, Rev. Oka Fauoloto, held an early morning prayer service before Police Minister Toleafoa Faafisi used a national radio broadcast to instruct drivers everywhere to stop their vehicles.

Minutes later, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi broadcast the formal instructions for drivers to switch sides at 6 a.m. local time (1700 GMT Monday).

Then drivers were ordered to resume their journeys, as horns honked and church bells rang.

3 SCHOOLS

From Page 1

school officials reported these burglaries to authorities but there has been no update yet from the police.

Because of these incidents and to better secure the students and their materials, SVES has hired a private security firm, in addition to the one provided by the school system.

At Marianas High School, principal Karen Borja said the campus also fell victim to burglars during the summer period.

Because the "break-in" was not that immediately apparent, Borja said they only noticed the incident near the last week of summer.

She said among the items missing were teachers' laptops, an LCD screen, and some small electronic gadgets in classrooms.

Borja said the burglary was noticed only when teachers returned to their classrooms.

MHS is among public schools that have security aides roaming the campus daily.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School reported a similar experience with summer burglars.

Principal Charlotte Camacho said that unidentified suspects forcibly entered the campus in the last week of July to look for electronic items they could steal.

However, because of prior incidents like this, the school's officials and teachers stored all important materials in a secure area, resulting in the burglars failing to get anything from the school.

GTC lost several important equipment to burglars two years ago.

Although the school doesn't have any security aide, Camacho said the cooperation of the GTC community and parents are vital in keeping the school safe.

Last school year, among the public schools that were burglarized included Dandan Elementary School and Tanapag Elementary School, where thousands of dollars worth of equipment were stolen, including computers, air-conditioning units, laptops, and other important items.

In an interview yesterday, DES principal Jonas Barcinas emphasized the need for every school to have their own security aides to secure the students' belongings.

He cited the hiring of enough security personnel as an important factor that will help curb the rampant burglaries in schools.

Limited funding from the local government has prevented public schools from hiring security aides.

Saipan Tribune learned that some schools that are able to hire security guards pay for this service using other funding sources such as donations and PTA accounts.

MURDER

From Page 1

Naraja granted the government's motion, dismissed the jurors, and told Namauleg he is now cleared of all charges.

Because of the double jeopardy rule, Namauleg cannot be charged with the same crime in the future.

According to the Supreme Court opinion penned by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and concurred by associate justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro, the government did not make a good-faith effort to procure the presence of victim Yahui Tian.

Because it is not clear whether Tian is physically unable to testify in court, presiding judge Robert Naraja did not err in deciding to exclude the videotape, the justices said.

Tian is now in China and is reportedly paralyzed as a result of the injuries she sustained in the attack.

The justices said that, while they recognize the factors that make Tian's presence difficult, the question remains whether the Commonwealth made any good-faith effort to have her present during the trial.

In a footnote to their opinion, the justices said the government could have, for example, provided more current medical information or an affidavit from Tian testifying that she is currently not physically able to travel.

During the trial last week, Naraja agreed with Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Namauleg, who objected to the prosecution's use of Tian's deposition testimony on the ground that it was barred because the government failed to prove that the witness was available.

Deposition refers to the taking of the testimony of a party or witness under oath before a court reporter, in a place away from the courtroom before trial. This testimony can be read into the record if the witness is not available during the trial.

The prosecution claimed it has a video deposition where the defendant had a full opportunity to rigorously cross-examine Tian.

Following's Naraja's ruling that barred Tian's deposition testimony, Meyer filed a petition for a writ of mandamus to compel Naraja to use the deposition testimony.

The Public Defender's Office argued that the government has made no effort to secure Tian's presence, and accordingly, the videotape deposition was inadmissible hearsay.

HOUSE

From Page 1

ment letter/contract with the U.S.-based law firm Jenner & Block LLP, and detailed billing invoices.

In yesterday's session, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the Legislature has the authority and the responsibility to scrutinize all records showing how public money is spent.

Palacios and Sablan, however, recognized that the local courts specifically withheld as privileged records these two documents that would not be available under the Open Government Act because they would reveal litigation strategy while the federalization lawsuit is still pending.

"Though not available under the Open Government Act at this time, these records are well within the authority of the Legislature to examine, and indeed the administration has explicitly acknowledged in its briefings before the courts that the Legislature has not only the right, but also the responsibility, to scrutinize all the records requested," Sablan told her fellow House members.

Last week, Sablan got 30 of 32 requested documents from the Executive Branch, after the local courts ruled in her favor for the release of documents pertaining to the government's federalization lawsuit.

The only two documents excluded from release are the ones that the House may ask the Fitial administration to produce.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the Fitial administration "welcomes the inquiry and we will be responsive according to law."

"Please bear in mind that the court allowed the government some exemptions," he added.

Watered down motion

In yesterday's session, Sablan's original motion was to request for a directive to the House Ways and Means Committee to "obtain" the records, and not just "consider" exercising its legal authority to obtain those records.

Her original motion was watered down after Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) objected, saying the House should not undermine or jeopardize the ongoing litigation.

Benavente and Babauta, however, clarified that they are not against the release of the records, but such request to release these records should not be done while the case is pending.

The CNMI government had sued the federal government over federalization, saying its labor provisions are unlawful under the terms of the Covenant agreement between the United States and the CNMI.

Judge Paul L. Friedman of the U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C. has yet to issue a ruling on the case, six months after taking under advisement the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the federalization lawsuit, as well as the CNMI's request for preliminary injunction to suspend the labor provisions of Public Law 110-229, or the federalization law.

The House speaker gave the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) three days or until Friday to make a determination whether to consider requesting for certain financial records from the administration.

Palacios also ordered the committee to work closely with House counsel Antonette Villagomez on the issue.

Yumul said his committee will be able to make a recommendation to the House by Friday.

Other documents

Sablan also asked that the House exercise its legislative authority to secure from the Fitial administration other documents.

These include "complete" and "to date" detailed and unredacted billing invoices from Jenner & Block, and from the governor's special counsel Howard Willens Jenner & Block and Willens represent the CNMI in its fight against federalization.

Based on documents released to Sablan by the Executive Branch last week, Jenner & Block billed the CNMI $395,971.81 between Aug. 26, 2008 and Feb. 27, 2009.

No billings were presented prior to August and after February this year.

Sablan said the agreement between the Office of the Governor and Jenner & Block was first effectuated on June 6, 2008, and the lawsuit continues to this day.

Based on documents released last week by the administration, the retainer payments made to Jenner & Block from the governor's accounts totaled $300,000, in six installments between October 2008 and April 2009.

But Sablan said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's memo authorizing the first payment is missing, and at least three wire transfer authorizations made in November 2008 and January 2009 appear to be missing.

"Further, although Mr. Willens' professional services contract with the Governor's Office had been released in April 2009 pursuant to the Open Government Act requests, the records released in August do not show any payments made to Mr. Willens," Sablan said.

She also seeks complete and un-redacted fund status reports from all accounts under the Office of the Governor, including but not limited to the governor's office accounts # 1011 and #1021, and including but not limited to the period beginning on April 1, 2008 and ending on Sept. 30, 2009.

Sablan also seeks records identifying the source(s) of funding for the CNMI's contracts with Jenner & Block and Willens.

She also requests records identifying the departments/agencies/instrumentalities of the CNMI government from which any public funds have been reprogrammed in order to finance the federalization lawsuit, and in what amounts, including those contracts with Willens and Jenner & Block.

"These records would allow the Legislature to more closely scrutinize the public expenses incurred thus far as a result of the ongoing 903 litigation, the implications of the 903 lawsuit for the FY 2010 budget, as well as other impacts of the governor's lawsuit as a matter of policy," she said.

Earlier, the Fitial administration said "the amount of money spent, while significant, is paltry compared to the enormous costs to the CNMI if we lose the lawsuit and federalization proceeds as currently outlined in federal law," citing, among other things, the loss of the Chinese and Russian tourist markets.

Federalization is set to start on Nov. 28, after it was pushed back by 180 days.

PATIENT

From Page 1

Committee on Health, Education and Welfare will consider this issue when it holds a public hearing on Sept. 16.

"My client's face was set on fire during an operation at CHC. Hopefully, the House panel will consider the quality of care at CHC and not just the long wait to receive that care," lawyer Michael W. Dotts told Saipan Tribune on Monday.

On Sept. 16, the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) will hold two public hearings on health issues, including doctors, emergencies, medical referral and dialysis.

On Thursday, Jose Dela Cruz, through his counsel Dotts, sued the CNMI, the Department of Public Health, CHC, Dr. Florian Braig and nine other individuals working at CHC at the time the operation and the burning happened.

The suit alleges negligence and intentional tort on the part of the defendants.

Dotts said his client underwent surgery to remove a large tumor in his right nostril on April 1, 2009.

"During the surgery, an oxygen cannula placed in Mr. Dela Cruz's mouth ignited, caught fire, and severely burned Mr. Dela Cruz's hard palate, and blew out his dental bridge. The injury to Mr. Dela Cruz caused permanent harm to some of his facial tissue," Dotts said in the complaint filed on behalf of Dela Cruz in the CNMI Superior Court on Sept. 3.

Dotts said the injury also caused his client a great deal of pain and suffering. He said Dela Cruz continues to suffer.

The lawyer also said his client was not advised prior to surgery that there was a risk of ignition or of burns to his mouth and face, and he did not give informed consent to that risk.

On April 29, plaintiff presented his claim to the attorney general but the attorney general failed to make any final disposition of the claim within 90 days after it was presented, and the claim is therefore deemed denied, said Dotts.

Dela Cruz also wants the court to award him damages for medical expenses, pain and suffering, emotional distress, anticipated future medical problems, and other damages as appropriate; pre-judgment interest on damages; costs; and attorney's fees.

NMC library director Gerbens steps down

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Another key position at the Northern Marianas College was left vacant last week with the resignation of Martin Gerbens, the college's library services and programs director.

His last day was on Sept. 4. Herbert Rosario was named temporary replacement to the post.

At present, the Library Services and Programs Division has three physical branches on the Saipan campus and is responsible for library holdings on Tinian and Rota. The libraries on the Saipan campus are the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library, the Pacific Collection, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Archives, and the Curriculum Resource Center.

In a statement yesterday, NMC confirmed the library director's departure but did not cite the reason for his resignation when asked.

Rosario is the director of the Pacific Collections and CNMI Archives.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez expressed confidence yesterday in Rosario's leadership.

"We are confident in Herbert's leadership and management abilities," said Fernandez, adding they are certain the critical services the library provides to students will not be interrupted during the transition.

"We are sorry to see Martin leave the college," said Janice Tenorio, NMC Dean of Student Services. "He has helped revitalize the library as a top resource for our students."

Fernandez emphasized that NMC students and community members can expect to receive the usual, exceptional service and assistance from library staff while the recruitment process for a new director of Library Services and Programs is underway.

Since getting its accreditation reaffirmed in July, the college has lost may key personnel, including former Student Services dean Dr. Debra Cabrera, Institutional Effectiveness director Will Castro, chief financial and administrative officer Roger Madriaga, and faculty department chairs Mark Haag and Glenn Keaton.

Two robbers hit CK poker arcade

Two unidentified men armed with a rock and a hammer robbed a poker establishment in Chalan Kanoa early yesterday morning.

The suspects fled toward Chalan Kanoa village after robbing Moon Night Poker of cash. No one was reported injured, police said.

The hammer-wielding suspect was described as 5'4" tall, and wearing a hooded black long-sleeved shirt and dark short pants.

The suspect armed with a rock was described as 5'8" tall, and was wearing a dark T-shirt and light colored jeans. His face was covered with some type of white cloth.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said police responded to a report of a robbery at the Moon Night Poker at 3:44am.

According to witnesses, the two suspects walked into the establishment as the cashier was behind the cashier's window.

The first suspect banged on the door and fiberglass window with a hammer and demanded money. The second suspect with the rock warned the security guard not to move.

When the cashier surrendered the money, the suspects fled.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of any of the robbers.

Last Wednesday, two unidentified men robbed the WVC Pawnshop in Garapan of $5,000 worth of assorted jewelry. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Search for missing surfer fails anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third day of aerial and water search failed again to locate surfer Hirofumi Matusumoto, who was reported missing in the Sugar Dock area since Sunday late afternoon.

As of press time yesterday, search and rescue teams, including the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy, were still conducting the search for Matusumoto. The team put up a command post at the Sugar Dock.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the surf at Sugar Dock was still hazardous, but DPS was able to deploy its dive rescue team yesterday morning.

Tarkong said the team conducted surface searches and body recovery searches outside the reef line.

Tarkong said DPS Fire Search and Rescue Unit personnel canvassed the shoreline for any signs or evidence of the missing surfer.

The Emergency Management Office also participated in the search.

The U.S. Navy dispatched its helicopter while the U.S. Coast Guard sent its cutter, the Washington rescue boat.

The search and rescue operation stopped Monday at 7pm and resumed yesterday at 5:30am.

EMO Deputy Director Mark Pangelinan said they have until today, Wednesday, to continue the search. Standard policy is to hold the search for 72 hours.

Pangelinan said the Boating Safety's dive team found out yesterday that the high surf was making it impossible to see anything at the bottom so they decided instead to conduct a surface search.

Pangelinan said the Navy's helicopter and the Coast Guard's rescue boat also conducted their own search around a the 20-mile radius.

As soon as the bottom is clear, that's when the dive rescue team will search underwater, Pangelinan said.

"We're trying our best," he said, adding that Hyatt Regency Saipan has also been supporting the rescue team.

Saipan Tribune learned that Matusumoto and his wife both work at Hyatt. Matusumoto's parents arrived yesterday morning from Tokyo, Japan,

Police investigation showed that on Sunday at 4pm, Matusumoto was surfing with a male friend behind Aquarius Hotel.

The strong current pulled the two outside the reef. The two attempted to fight the current by paddling south. After 30 minutes, Matusumoto's friend was able to catch a wave and paddled back to shore.

When the friend looked back, he could not see Matusumoto so he called the police. Police officers responded to the scene at 5:20pm.

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Feds evaluate form for replacing 'Northern Mariana ID Card'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security is evaluating whether to revise a form called Form I-777 for those applying for a replacement "Northern Mariana Identification Card," which the federal agency considers a valid evidence of U.S. citizenship.

Form I-777 is used by those applying for a Northern Mariana Identification Card if they received U.S. citizenship pursuant to Public Law 94-241 or the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States.

During the two-year period that ended on July 1, 1990, USCIS issued original Northern Mariana Identification Cards to individuals who acquired U.S. citizenship through the Covenant.

USCIS said these cards remain valid as evidence of U.S. citizenship.

"Although USCIS no longer issues these cards, a citizen to whom a card was previously issued may use this application to request replacement of a card that was lost, stolen, or damaged," USCIS said in a notice of information collection activities involving Form I-777 published in the Federal Register.

On May 13, USCIS issued a 60-day notice of information collection involving Form I-777. USCIS said it did not receive any comments for this information collection.

Thus, on Aug. 5, USCIS issued another public notice allowing an additional 30-day public comment on Form I-777. Comments were accepted until last Friday, Sept. 4. More information is available at http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480a01727

During the comment period, USCIS said it will be evaluating whether to revise Form I-777.

"Should USCIS decide to revise Form I-777, we will advise the public when we publish the 30-day notice in the Federal Register in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. The public will then have 30 days to comment on any revisions to the Form I-777," USCIS said.

In a supporting statement, USCIS said an applicant may file Form I-777 for the CNMI identification card if he or she:

- Was born before Nov. 3, 1986, in the Northern Mariana Islands, was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), and on that date was domiciled in the CNMI or the U.S. or any territory or possession of the U.S.;
- Was a citizen of the dissolved TTPI on Nov. 3, 1986, was domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands for the preceding five years; and unless under age, registered to vote in Northern Mariana Islands district legislature or municipal elections prior to Jan. 1, 1975;
- Was domiciled in the CNMI on Nov. 3, 1986 and was not a citizen of the dissolved TTPI but has been domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands since prior to Jan. 1, 1974; or
- Is requesting replacement of a Northern Mariana identification card.

House junks bills to scrap housing perks for top execs and cut pachinko fees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday narrowly thumbed down a bill seeking to scrap the housing benefits and utilities of top elected officials, as well as a bill to reduce the license fee for pachinko slot machines.

On an 8-7 vote, House Bill 16-167 HD 3 was defeated. One abstained from voting while five members were absent.

The bill, introduced by Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), clarifies that if an official opts to live in his or her private residence, that official is not eligible to receive housing benefits, including payment for utilities.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb's (R-Saipan) H.B. 16-255, which seeks to reduce pachinko slot machines' license fees, got only six "yes" votes versus eight "no" votes.

At the same time, the House adopted Rep. Stanley Torres' (R-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 16-28, HS1, HD2, asking U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) to support and petition the reclassification and removal of the nightingale reed warbler bird from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of endangered species in the CNMI.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) opposed the resolution. Among other things, Sablan said the move to reclassify the bird should start with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

She also said Torres's claim that the reed warbler has a much larger population now is not based on scientific study but only on "observation by driving around" the island. Torres said he's not the only one who observed the increased bird population which he said impedes the CNMI's economic growth, adding that he's no embarrassed to ask Washington, D.C. for help on this matter.

Torres also spoke before introducing House Bill 16-271, which seeks to create the Second Marianas Political Status Commission and re-examine U.S.-CNMI relations, particularly whether a "commonwealth" status is still desired by local residents.

"That I will be wrongly accused of being anti-American is not important. What is important is that the people of the Commonwealth and we, their elected representatives, have a chance to revisit a treaty made 34 years ago to see if it is working out as promised," Torres said.

House members also debated the importance and reason behind Rep. Ramon Tebuteb's HJR 16-29, commending and expressing support to David J. Sablan and Consolacion D. Sablan for the development of homes and condominiums on a tract of land in San Vicente. In the end, the House adopted the measure, along with other committee reports and resolutions.

Man gets 7 years for Rota poker robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court sentenced yesterday to seven years in prison a man who robbed a poker establishment on Rota. After serving his prison term, Wilbur Vic Masga Inos will be placed on four years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also required Inos to pay a $100 special assessment fee.

During his supervised release, Inos is prohibited from gambling at poker machines and is restricted from entering poker arcades. Inos will also be required to perform 100 hours of community service.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto had recommended a seven-year prison sentence and three-year supervised release. Robert Torres, lawyer for Inos, had recommended seven years in prison and incarceration at the Sheridan Facility in Portland, Oregon.

Inos agreed to a deal with the U.S. government in May 2009, pleading guilty to one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Torres earlier stated that his client took responsibility for his actions.

"Being a young man he was able to decide to accept responsibility, and by serving his sentence, will make amends to the community for his conduct and we'll look forward to the day when he is able to be returned to be a productive member of the society," Torres said.

Police arrested Inos about an hour after the robbery at Rota Poker was reported to the Rota Department of Public Safety on Aug. 4, 2008.

GTC using cafeteria, campus stage for some classes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary welcomed the new school year yesterday with only seven classrooms due to a delay in the construction of two facilities that house 10 classrooms.

This has forced the school to operate on a "team-teaching" schedule for all the classes from kindergarten to sixth grade, according to GTC principal Charlotte Camacho.

This means two teachers are present for every grade class for a maximum of 37 students.

As of yesterday, GTC had 233 students and 14 teachers. Because of the current situation, majority of classes have 29 students while its sixth grade class has 37 students.

Camacho said the situation will continue until the new buildings are built, hopefully within the year.

For the meantime, the school will use its cafeteria, library, and campus stage for classroom instructions.

The situation also forced the school to limit its enrollment this year.

Camacho said the construction project will break ground before the end of the month.

Renovation work on buildings S and G, which have 10 classrooms for lower grades, are expected to be finished this year. These facilities were supposed to be used yesterday but due to some delays in finding a qualified contractor for the project, completion was pulled back to a later date.

GTC was supposed to get $800,000 for the construction project earlier this year but the school was removed from the Community Development Block Grant list in favor of a soccer field in Koblerville. To resolve the issue, the governor reprogrammed over $700,000 in CIP money for the school construction with the intention to complete work during the summer period.

The problem buildings usually accommodate over a hundred students on a daily basis, Saipan Tribune learned.

Camacho is optimistic the overcrowding problem at her school will soon be addressed.

"Despite the situation of combined classes and combined teachers, we have a very smooth opening today," the principal said, adding that prior to opening, parents were provided guidelines on the standards and requirements for their students.

Camacho praised PSS for providing her school with a school counselor for the first time in many years.

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

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MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	8/29 Sat	8/27 Thu	8/27 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/22 Sat	9/4 Fri	8/31 Mon	8/30 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/31 Mon	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/5 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/3 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/29 Sat	9/11 Fri	9/7 Mon	9/6 Sun	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	9/7 Mon	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/12 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/10 Thu	9/8 Tue	9/5 Sat	9/18 Fri	9/14 Mon	9/13 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/14 Mon	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	9/19 Sat	9/17 Thu	9/17 Thu	9/15 Tue	9/12 Sat	9/25 Fri	9/21 Mon	9/20 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/21 Mon	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	9/29 Tue
MELL SENOKO	028E	9/26 Sat	9/24 Thu	9/24 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/19 Sat	10/2 Fri	9/28 Mon	9/27 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/28 Mon	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/3 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/1 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/26 Sat	10/9 Fri	10/5 Mon	10/4 Sun	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	10/5 Mon	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	10/13 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	9/12 Sat	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/16 Wed	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Fri	9/26 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/4 Sun	9/30 Wed
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/19 Sat	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue	9/23 Wed	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	SKIP	10/2 Fri	10/3 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/11 Sun	10/7 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/26 Sat	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	SKIP	9/30 Wed	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Fri	10/10 Sat	10/15 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/18 Sun	10/14 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	10/3 Sat	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue	10/7 Wed	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/16 Fri	10/17 Sat	10/22 Thu	11/10 Tue	10/25 Sun	10/21 Wed
MELL SENOKO	028E	10/10 Sat	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/14 Wed	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Fri	10/24 Sat	10/29 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/1 Sun	10/28 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/17 Sat	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue	10/21 Wed	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/30 Fri	10/31 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/8 Sun	11/4 Wed

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US govt wants to appeal Tim's sentence

The U.S. government wants to appeal the sentencing of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley filed yesterday a notice before the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the U.S. government appeals to the Ninth Circuit the federal court's judgment against Villagomez on Aug. 6, 2009.

No other information was indicated in the notice.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, O'Malley explained that they filed the notice just to preserve their right to appeal.

"What we would potentially be appealing is Tim Villagomez's sentence. We think that there was a miscalculation of the points. I don't want to establish a bad precedent," O'Malley said.

He, however, believes that the sentence given to Villagomez was appropriate.

The prosecutor said if they are going to an appeal, it would be the four points that were available for sentencing that U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Alex Munson discounted. "I think it should have been included," O'Malley added.

Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Munson sentenced James Santos and Joaquina V. Santos to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals their convictions, sentences, and court orders on numerous motions. The three have already been flown out of Saipan to start serving their sentences in federal prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man in fake money case gets one year

The federal court imposed yesterday a one year and one day prison term on one of three persons convicted of passing fake bills to some stores on Saipan.

After serving his sentence, Lucas Taitano Manglona will be placed on three years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also required Manglona to perform 100 hours of community service and to pay with co-defendant Nestor Taitano $50 to the Nang Ocha Store. The judge also ordered Manglona to pay a $200 fine.

Munson said Manglona shall participate in a mental health program under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

The defendant was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Manglona agreed to a deal with the U.S. government in May 2009, pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of passing counterfeit obligations.

Manglona bought items at the Nang Ocha Store on Jan. 12, 2009, using a $50 bill he knew to be counterfeit, pursuant to an understanding he had with Taitano.

The agreement was that Taitano would give Manglona the fake $50 bill. Manglona would then get the item he purchased and return the change to Taitano.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the assistance of local police, busted Manglona, Taitano, and Kisha Lyn Masga King.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said the three used fake money on Jan. 12, 2009 to defraud at least four establishments—Koblerville Shell gas station, Tapo Fashion in Chalan Piao, Fashion Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, and Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Charles P. Reyes Jr., Acting Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). The application package may also be dropped at the Council's office. Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 2009 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort job fair in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 15, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. There will be many job openings for Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's Hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately. ***(PR)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPT. 9 2002

Babauta, MVA to follow up on Japan trip

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente will meet key people at the Marianas Visitors Authority tomorrow to outline the administration's plans for tourists and investors to come into the CNMI, following the chief executive's recent successful trip to Japan. At the same time, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Dave Sablan said the Governor has tasked him to organize a gathering of top business executives on the island to discuss plans on how to improve the tourism-reliant economy of the Commonwealth on short-, medium- and long-term bases. Sablan said he met with Babauta and Benavente after the governor declared he wants monthly trade missions to Japan.

'Reorganization? What do you mean?'

Just before they face Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Tuesday, Marianas Visitors Authority officials are expressing concern over his recent statement that there is a need for a reorganization at the agency. Relatedly, the House committee on tourism has asked the MVA to evaluate itself and all the positions within the agency to make sure that funds intended to lure visitors into the CNMI are maximized. MVA board chair Dave Sablan voiced his concern over the supposed reorganization, quoting some of the members as asking, 'What does he [Babauta] really mean by that?' "I am concerned to see what he really means about that. There was never an explanation to me as to what he really means. Neither did we suggest anything," he said. "I really don't know the answer and I ought to get that question answered by Tuesday."

SEPT. 9, 2003

Manglona nixes call for session

Senate president Paul A. Manglona rebuffed the minority bloc's call for him to convene a session today, saying he cannot call for one until after they first meet to agree on an agenda. In a letter dated Sept. 8 addressed to the minority bloc members, Manglona said he is unable to convene a special session as was requested by the four senators. "It is my hope that all the Senate members will meet first to agree on an agenda before we convene a session. I'll be issuing a notice of this meeting soon, and shortly thereafter will be notifying each Senate members when will the Senate reconvene since the recess on August 27, 2003," said Manglona.

CUC relieves lab manager, assistant

Effective Sept. 1, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. laboratory manager Pete Babauta and his assistant, Mariano Iglesias, were put on indefinite leave amid allegations of various compliance violations, including tampering of water test results. The memorandum-issued to them upon the advise of the CUC board-was signed by CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta, who is the laboratory manager's wife. CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan said in an interview yesterday that the administrative leave of the two laboratory officials is "a perceived positive step" to show that the CUC is committed to cooperate in addressing the compliance violations as cited by the Division of Environmental Quality.

SEPT. 9 2004

SU's Park found guilty

Due to "overwhelming evidence," a federal jury has found Saipan University founder Soon Kyung Park guilty on all three counts of fraud charges relating to the recruitment and transport of Chinese students to Saipan last year. U.S. District Court judge Alex Munson also directed the forfeiture of three bank accounts that contained no less than $500,000 that were found to have been derived from the fraudulent activities of Park. Munson set Park's sentencing on Dec. 14, 2004 at 9am. Park remains under the custody of the U.S. Marshals.

BB team will seek re-election in '05 polls

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has publicly declared that he would seek reelection in next year's gubernatorial race in front of a crowd of Republican partymates and supporters during his birthday bash at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Tuesday night. Babauta, who turned 51, wants another four-year term together with Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente as his running mate. "I want to thank the Republican Party for using the occasion of my birthday to do a fundraising and support for the party," the governor said. Babauta said he was personally touched by the presence of the huge crowd that graced the occasion. He estimated the crowd at 500.

APAFS obtains $40K sponsorship for Oct. conference

Representatives from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, Metropolitan West Capital Management LLC , and ASC Trust Corp. recently presented checks totaling $40,000 to the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies for sponsorship of the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, to be held in October.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is a nonprofit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region. It was formed by board members and trustees of institutional funds throughout Asia in 2000.

The association is hosting the 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference on Oct. 8 and 9 in Manila for the fourth time in its 10-year history.

Dr. Mark Mobius, one of the leading world experts on investments and a regular commentator on Bloomberg and CNBC, is set to deliver the keynote address.

Sponsors of the 2009 conference include Income Research & Management, Metropolitan West Management, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Atalanta Sosnoff, ASC Trust Corp., Davis Hamilton Jackson & Associates, Fisher Investments, Franklin Templeton, Janus Capital Group, Louis Boulanger Now/Bullion Management Group, Payden & Rygel, Renaissance Investment Management, Richmond Capital Management, Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robins, Glimpses of Guam, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Milliman, Robeco Investment Management, Inc., Nicholas—Applegate, Capis and the official airline partner of the conference, Continental Micronesia.

For updates, inquiries and online registration, log on to www.apafs.org. ***(APAFS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

APAFS SPONSORS

Metropolitan West Capital Management LLC has agreed to sponsor the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in October. Picture shows Mark Heath, CFA, CPA and senior vice president of Metropolitan West Capital Management LLC, center, presenting the $15,000 check to Jason Miyashita, left, instructor for the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, and Gerard A. Cruz, chairman of the board of governors of APAFS, who accepted the check on behalf of APAFS. Not pictured is APAFS executive director Daniel A. Roland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC recently presented a $15,000 check to the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies for sponsorship of the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held in October. In this photo, Jason Miyashita, second vice president and senior investment management specialist with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, presents Cruz with the sponsorship check.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to Parveen Pua Mingefiiy! May God bless you on this special day and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you always! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, brother, grandma, grandpa and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Katrina Adhikari who celebrated her second birthday on Sept. 7, 2009, in San Antonio. Greetings come from Mom and Dad and all who attended her birthday party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michelle Diego, center, special projects manager with ASC Trust Corp., presents a $10,000 check to Jason Miyashita, left, instructor for the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, and Gerard A. Cruz, chairman of the board of governors of APAFS as a major sponsor of the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in October.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 AT 8:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE, RM. B2, TATACHOG, ROTA. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. August 4, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  2. Financial Report - CDA
  3. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
    a. Fiscal Year 2009 Budget – Revised
    b. Fiscal Year 2009 Audit
    c. Update on Foreclosed Properties
  2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities.
    a. Benefits Guidelines
V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Small Business Development Center
  2. Business Incubator
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)*

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 AT 11:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE, RM. B2, TATACHOG, ROTA. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
IV. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report – DCD
  2. Loan Reports
    a. Loan Applications
    b. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
    c. Bank Guarantees Status' Report
    d. Loan Status/Receivables Report
    e. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Preliminary Recommendation to Provide Further Debt Relief
VI. NEW BUSINESS
  1. New Loan Requests
  2. Borrowers' Requests
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman, CDA Board of Directors

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 216

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The swine flu vaccine: Should you get it?

When it comes to protecting yourself against this fall's swine flu (or H1N1 virus) outbreak, you know the drill. Wash your hands frequently. Cover your cough or sneeze. Stay home if you or your child is sick. But, if government officials approve a vaccination effort, should you participate?

Thanks to planning by President George W. Bush's administration for the avian flu pandemic that never materialized in 2005, the Obama administration had a strong foundation from which to respond to the swine flu outbreak in April. Among other things, contracts were in place with manufacturers to get started on a vaccine for the fall. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, one reason most of the vaccine won't be ready until the mid-October peak is that H1N1 doesn't yield as much material in the lab as seasonal flu does. So the process is taking a little longer. But news that only one dose might be needed could speed up the timetable.

Sufferers of regular seasonal flu tend to be those with weak immune systems, such as the elderly. But it's different with H1N1. Otherwise healthy young people are becoming infected with swine flu. This is one of the driving forces behind the rush for a vaccine. The other is the efficiency with which the virus has spread. Since H1N1 roared to life in Mexico in the spring, it has appeared in more than 190 countries. Overall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization classify the pandemic as "moderate" in its severity. According to the CDC, 9,079 hospitalizations and 593 deaths have been attributed to swine flu in the United States this year. To put this in perspective, the average number of deaths from seasonal flu each year is 36,000.

Concern about the forthcoming vaccine is understandable and centers on the experience during the 1976-77 flu season. That's when a swine flu outbreak at Fort Dix, N.J., led the federal government to expedite vaccine production. Some 40 million people were vaccinated, including President Ford, by the time Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological disorder, was identified as a side effect. It is estimated that more than 500 people developed GBS and 25 people died after receiving the vaccine.

Given that history and the distrust that it bred, Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, understands the public's concern. He told us that a risk-benefit analysis is always done with vaccinations. Where federal officials erred then was in green-lighting the massive vaccination effort "before seeing whether the cases would go beyond Fort Dix," Dr. Fauci said. "A pandemic never materialized; there was only the risk of the vaccine. Today, the pandemic is a reality. The benefit of the vaccine far outweighs the risks."

Dr. Fauci also said that the risks of the vaccine will be small because "the way you make this vaccine is essentially the same for seasonal flu vaccines we've made for decades." And what about the emergence of a serious side effect after a mass vaccination? Dr. Fauci told us, "No clinical trial in the world can be large enough to definitively detect a very rare adverse event," such as the GBS side effects in 1976. But, he added that surveillance mechanisms today are much better than in 1976. The CDC has set up a post-vaccination program to catch severe side effects and reactions as quickly as possible.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

NO KID OF MINE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH AN INDOCTRINATION!
Obama School Speech
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
DAD, I THINK THE LETTER FROM SCHOOL IS REFERRING TO H1N1 FLU INOCULATION.

A speechwriter's tip for Obama: Silence is golden

By MATT LATIMER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

I've made a decent living as a speechwriter over the past decade and even realized my dream of becoming one of the few to have crafted the words of an American president. Deserved or not, my name can at least be placed in the same sentence with those notable presidential scribes whose talents have enlivened our national story: Sorensen, Safire, Shrum, Dolan, Noonan.

So it might not be in my interest to say this, but here goes: The time has come to eliminate my job, Mr. President. Fire the speechwriters; it might be the only way to save the presidency.

The age of the Internet and cable news has opened the world to an onslaught of ideas, opinions and information. It also is stripping away the grandeur—and power—of the highest office in the land. Commanders in chief have become daily, even hourly, television performers, expected to be out yakking in public on everything that happens, from the death of Michael Jackson to the latest NASCAR champion to "An Evening of Country Music."

Speechwriters have become enablers, manning an assembly line of recycled bullet points so presidents can serve as the nation's pep-talk-givers, instant reactors, TV friends. The constant access to television coverage can tempt any presidential ego, but it's a terrible trap. Even President Obama's pal Oprah knows when to go on hiatus from her show and give her viewers a break.

There was a time when a president's words could instantly move millions. Think of Kennedy's call to land on the moon or Reagan's challenge to the Soviets to dismantle the Berlin Wall. Now we hear presidents so often, they are almost irrelevant. When I worked at the White House last year, I recall one commentator criticizing a speech President George W. Bush delivered (and I had written) about the economy, suggesting that the president just go away for a while. And that was one of the kinder reviews.

Yet Bush's advisers, particularly Karl Rove, exerted enormous pressure on him to go out every day to talk about anything—even if no one was listening. Each year, for example, we were asked to produce three entirely separate statements to commemorate St. Patrick's Day. And we crafted remarks for so many Hispanic-themed ceremonies that the president finally stood up in the Oval Office and told his speechwriters, "No mas."

The Hispanic-themed comments were an outgrowth of the administration's all-out push for comprehensive immigration reform. As the president's proposal became more controversial, Rove—on one of his over-caffeinated days—persuaded Bush to give speech after speech, each time hoping that somehow they'd find the magic words to turn things around. Bush, who when given a moment to collect his thoughts could be a persuasive speaker, was talking so often that his words on the subject lost their presidential heft. Critics noted that his message seemed muddied and his arguments contradictory or confusing.

On Afghanistan and Iraq, Bush was sent out to speak so frequently that he sometimes ran out of words. I was with him in Las Vegas in early 2008 when he offered a not-exactly-startling assessment about the effort in Afghanistan: "It's hard work. It's not easy. It doesn't happen overnight." For Democrats who think this could never happen to their guy, here's what Obama said recently at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention: "The insurgency in Afghanistan didn't just happen overnight. ... This will not be quick, nor easy."

In Obama's umpteenth statement on the economy last month, he reached for the granddaddy of all cliches: "We can see a light at the end of the tunnel." (Perhaps he was doing a belated tribute to Robert McNamara.) Another time, Obama made this boomerang of a boast about the economy: "Today we're pointing in the right direction. We're losing jobs at less than half the rate we were when I took office."

On the biggest issue of his presidency yet—health-care reform—Obama is following his predecessor's example. He keeps arguing and re-explaining while his poll numbers drop. On Wednesday he'll offer another big health-care speech—one he'd be better off canceling—supposedly full of new details. Don't worry if you miss it. There will be another. And another. Obama has even reverted to his peculiar tendency to refer to the places he visits as if they are people—"Inaction is no longer an option, Chicago" or "Thank you, Montana." Like a rock band on tour, he's singing the same tune so often that he has to remind himself where he is.

Obama is smarter than this. On the campaign trail, his speeches, in clear, coherent English, contrasted with the dreary Washington-speak of Hillary Clinton, who sounded as if everything she said had first been focus-grouped with 40-somethings in Youngstown, Ohio. Even some of us in the Bush White House studied Obama's speeches and marveled at their grace.

As a conservative, it might be in my interest to urge the president to hire even more writers so he can keep droning on—and turn "yes, we can" to "yes, I ramble." But as an American, I'd prefer to protect the presidential voice. If we don't keep it elevated above the idle chatter of the moment, we may see a future FDR or Reagan delivering an Oval Office address commemorating the fifth marriage of Britney Spears.

See SPEECHWRITER on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The load test

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Seems each day more weight is added
you take more hits than you can bear
but before you run for cover
listen close to what I'll share

You can smile through disappointment
You can laugh despite the pain
when you really know what's going on
there's much that you will gain

Every object (man's or nature's)
must be put under some stress
It's the only way to know
if it's been built to pass the test

Every structure gets load tested
If it gives under the strain
that just means it time to go
back to the drawing board again!

Think of buildings in your city
floor on floor up to the skies
just the strongest of foundations
add more stories to their rise

Even seeds don't have it easy
damp and packed there in the mud
they too face all types of stress
to overcome before they bud

So don't break under the pressure
simply smile now that you know:
"Every thing must be load tested
for under pressure's how we grow!"

As a former civil engineer, and now as the owner of several Web sites, I'd like to introduce you to a concept call "load testing." In civil engineering, a structure like a bridge, or a building is subjected to the stress of weight to determine if it can and will support the loads (cars, people, etc.) for which it was designed. A similar process happens in Web site design. Before a Web site "goes live" (i.e., is launched), it's subjected to a test that simulates thousands of simultaneous visitors to see if it can handle the million or more "hits" (visits) per day (without crashing) that a successful advertising campaign might generate.

Well, wouldn't you know it, something similar happens in your life too!

The minute you decide YOU want to "go live", or take yourself to another level, the universe sends a load test your way. You'll know when you're being load-tested because you'll feel the pressure of everyday life increasing, or you'll find that everything you attempt seems to go wrong, or you might meet upon a hundred roadblocks that test your patience, commitment, strength, perseverance and will power. You'll feel like you too are receiving a thousand hits a day, or a thousand pounds per square inch of pressure!

The question life is asking you is, Are you ready to "go live?" Can your structure support the load and the pressure? That's what is really going on. Once it's determined that you've got what it takes, then like a building, another story will be added to your rise. (Get it? Story?) Like a Web site, you'll be ready to go "live"! So, the next time you (or your family, relationship, community or nation) feel you are going through an obvious load test, you can smile, because NOW you know what's really going on!

Pass the test, and get ready for graduation!

■ ■ ■

Note: The Saipan Writers Passion to Profit Workshop will be scheduled for the end of this month! Join the "Culture Corner" list at www.saipantext.com to be notified by text message of the workshop!

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or by ordering on Amazon.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

America by rails: On the Sunset Limited to El Paso

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Due to special offers in air fare, I managed to find myself with more than three weeks to visit two daughters, one in San Diego and the other in Chicago, during last week's trip to attend a symposium outside Metro Houston.

I bought a 12-segment 30-day rail pass from Amtrak that will allow me to tour America on rails from Houston to the City of Angels, then to the Bay Area and onwards to Portland where many of our Chamorro friends have resettled. From there, traverse the prairies to the windy city of Chicago, proceeding to Boston and NYC, and then hightail it back to Houston for the NWA trip back to Saipan at the end of the month.

Members of a Christian-oriented covenant of people concerned with contemporary spirit realization and effective social engagement brought me to six days of bold and spirited collegial wrestling at the home of a former oil industry executive in Sugarland, Texas, who is also a colleague of MIT's Norm Choamsky.

Home to ex-U.S. congressman Tom who delayed many federal government outreach to excesses and "un-American" practices of the garment industry outlets in the CNMI, Sugarland was also home to Ken of Enron whose machinations led to drastic reduction of value of many investments, particularly retirement funds.

Sugarland is a manicured neighborhood of gated communities whose consumption shows a benign neglect of the economic downturn in the nation. Not severely affected by the housing crisis, and being undergirded by the demand-driven oil industry of which Houston is not only a leading supplier but also a hub of the industry's management expertise, Sugarland flourishes as the community of the well-heeled and properly connected.

Of the derma-color seen in the neighborhood, dark gets to pick up the trash and the brown mows the lawn, with the yellow tints often seen in take out counters. One of my favorite stories is told of the golf pro Lee Trevino of Dallas when one day he was mowing his lawn and someone inquired how much the lady of the house was paying him. He sidled up to the inquirer and whispered: "The pay is not much but the lady of the house let me sleep with her.

What happened to one of the symposium members who hails from Alaska was, however, not funny. A Teacher's Union officer of slave descent, he was taking his luggage to his parked rental car when he was seen jiggling the trunk handle. He forgot that pulling the lever on the driver's side on rentals do not open the trunk; the use of the ignition key was necessary.

The Alaskan finally figured his way out of his quandary when he noticed one of Sugarland's finest parked across the street roundabout opposite his car. (A neighbor called, we accurately deduced.) It was only after his Caucasian traveling partner came out bidding their Caucasian host adieu in the perfunctory manner of hugs and kisses did the patrol car revved up and moved out. A sigh of relief was heard. A Louis Gates Jr. déjà vu was averted.

When I got to the downtown train station, the terminal reflected the country's low priority for rail travel as a means of people transport. There is hardly a street sign pointing to the place, and the walkway that leads to the Post Office under the highway ramp was neither well lit nor tidy. Though my train did not embark new passengers until 9pm, and I had the time to explore the theatre district of the downtown area, I hurried back before sundown still smarting from the fear/rage morning incident in Sugarland.

I have traveled enough to know that the cream of the well-off take to the airways so much so that, not just nationally but globally, airports have become alike in the servicing of the elite Duty Free Shop crowds. Taking the rails would involve another sub-class of people whose income for travel is considerably less than those who take planes. Discount for *man'amko* and Armed Services personnel, active and vets, along with students and a generous rail pass for anyone pretty much define the nature of the clientele.

Five hours into the mid-early morn, the Sunset Limited from New Orleans to Los Angeles hit San Antonio of the Alamo fame. I wanted to walk their well-known River pathway but the earliness of the hour precluded any tramping of the morning dew. Besides, the caboose from the Texas flyer originating in Chicago for people heading west that has been sitting on the rails a good three hours before our arrival was hitched to our line and no one was allowed off the train. So we slept through the morning parked in the railroad before we started barreling away from the sunrise.

Del Rio was our first stop that was close to the Rio Grande, the dividing line between Mexico and the United States. Many Latinos who swim across the river to avail of the seasonal need for farmhands in the mid-West to Maryland's outer bank poultry and swine farms, and Georgia's fruit orchards, are referred to as "wetbacks." They were once tolerated; now they are tolerated no more. The river and the desert has since become a scourge on the descendants of the previous owners of this land!

Judge Roy Bean's museum sign reminded me of Joe Race's novel, *The Hawaiian Paniolo,* where one of the lead characters battled *bandidos* this side of the Rio Grande. The dry riverbeds and sand/gravel roads reminded me of the Kannat Tabla road when I was a down creek neighbor to the Bishop. The dry creek bed is a road when the weather is dry and a raging creek during the monsoon.

There were 51 consecutive days reported to have been 100 F in south Texas until a week ago and the Longhorns of UT Austin have been quick to claim that their physical conditioning leaves them on top of their game to perform the weekly rituals of brute force, agility, and guile in the Sabbath gridiron this Fall.

The lake past Del Rio did show a low waterline. But the stacked stone bricks from the surrounding environment were displayed in little outposts along the railroad, indicating an attempt to utilize local resources. Lone structures also are symbols of the wild, wild West's rugged individualism. The bricks were reminiscent of the Mactan stones we developed earlier in the Philippines, with some tiles finding their way as façade material on Saipan in the '80s.

Real cowboys and cowgirls finally showed up in Sanderson, Texas, though before then, there were no signs of bovine, swine, or the fruit of the vine. West of Del Rio was an Air Force base stuck in the middle of nowhere but nut fruit orchards finally showed up before and after El Paso.

It is my intent to listen to the heartbeat of America, and so far, the passengers are a motley crew of the elderly and the marginalized. More on them as we seek once more the post 9/11 soul of America.

SPEECHWRITER

From Page 10

I realize that eliminating the speechwriting office is a radical measure. It would be a shock to the system, forcing the president to give more care to the remarks he delivers, if only because he has to write them himself. No doubt the pressures on the president to perform for the 24/7 media world will grow regardless. The only way to calm such a monster is to not overfeed it.

So when Obama returns from Camp David after spending this Labor Day weekend with his family, he should consider sending his speechwriters on a vacation of their own. A long one.

Matt Latimer served as deputy director of speechwriting for President George W. Bush and senior speechwriter for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He is the author of Speech-Less: Tales of a White House Survivor, *forthcoming this month.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

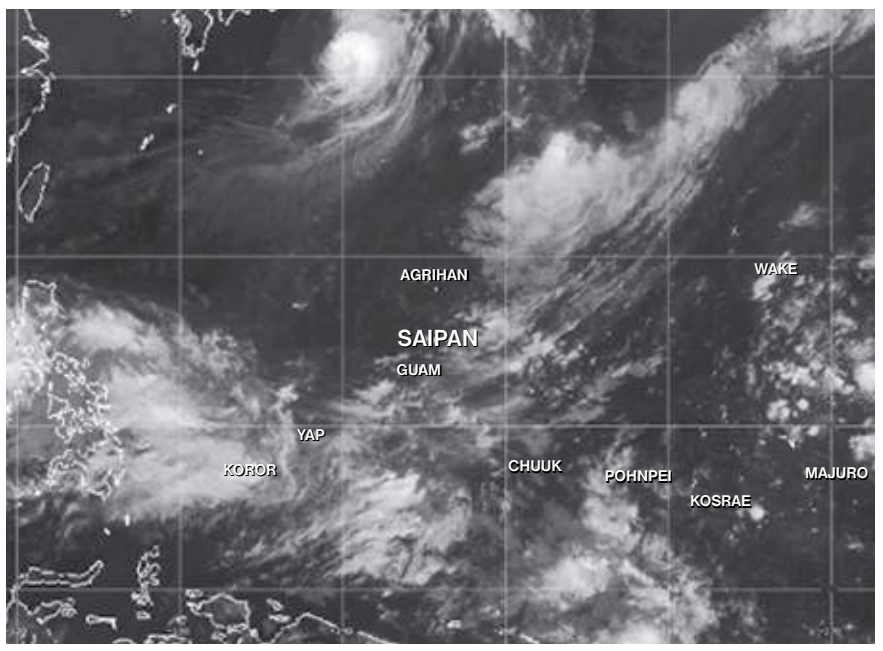
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼46
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼59
Hong Kong	Showers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲70	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲82	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼41
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
New York	Rain	▲74	▼62
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼61
Paris	Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲79	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼54
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼64
Washington, DC	Rain	▲73	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Minami Tori Shima in an area north of a line from 17N151E to 25N161E. A monsoon trough extends from Luzon to 17N130E then southeastward through a weak circulation near 9N144E to end at EQ162E. Converging west winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap and Palau and southwest of Chuuk in an area from 16N130E to 6N149E to EQ146E to 8N130E back to 16N130E and south of Pohnpei in an area south of 4N from 155E to 162E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers northeast of Majuro in an area from 15N168E to 15N180 to 4N180 back to 15N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:26 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:48 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:29 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:18 PM	9:38 AM
Thursday	10:08 PM	10:35 AM
Friday	11:04 PM	11:35 AM
Saturday		12:36 PM
Sunday	12:04 AM	1:36 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Among millions of jobless, a few entrepreneurs

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Until this summer, salesman Jorge Ocampo had always been what he calls a W-2 man. Proof was the Mercedes he bought with cash. But he had always longed to be his own boss.

"Almost every day I thought of it," the 54-year-old said.

The opportunity came June 2 when he was laid off from a high-tech company. Unlike the millions of people drawing an unemployment check, he enrolled in a little-known program approved by Congress that gives the jobless the weekly cash benefit but also trains them to run their own business.

And the newly minted small-business owner gets to keep the profits, too.

The program is available in only eight states, mostly along the coasts. In Oregon, the recession brought one of the nation's highest unemployment rates—about 175,000 are getting jobless benefits. Interest in the program, one of the largest, has jumped by about 75 percent, bringing the yearly total of recipients to nearly 600.

AP

Jorge Ocampo speaks in his home office Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009, in Portland, Ore.

"They can't buy a job, so they get to make one up," says Pat Sanderlin, who runs the program. "Right now, you've got people coming into this in survival mode."

Maine and Washington, which added its program in 2008, report strong interest.

The program however has languished elsewhere in the face of opposition from businesses, a shortage of money for program expenses such as training and counseling, and a lack of interest on the part of unemployed wage-earners.

Business opposition often focuses on the taxes that employers pay to provide unemployment insurance.

"They're paying for the privilege of financing someone who would be going into business against them," said David Clough, lobbyist for the National Federation of Independent Business in New Hampshire, where a bill to establish self-employment aid died this year over fears about its impact on the state's unemployment trust fund.

New frugality is the new normal, by necessity

CHICAGO (AP)—A year after "shop 'til you drop" stopped, the nation fixates on this question: Will consumer spending ever return to pre-recession levels?

Increasingly, the answer appears to be no. Belt-tightening in bad times is normal. And after every other recession since World War II, penny-pinching quickly fell out of fashion and Americans resumed their demand for houses, cars and everything else.

This time it's different. Like the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Great Recession seems destined to turn many Americans into lasting coupon-cutters, scrimpers and savers. Consumers dug a debt hole over the past decade from which there's no easy climb out. The population segment that drives spending the most—baby boomers—faces special pressure: Boomers are running out of time.

A study by research firm AlixPartners concluded that once a new normal sets in after this recession ends, Americans will spend at about 86 percent of their pre-downturn level.

In an economy driven by consumption, the implications are far-reaching if that forecast proves correct:

■ For every kitchen not remodeled, there will be lost sales of appliances and supplies, and fewer jobs for designers and contractors. As homeowners do work around the house themselves, there will be less work for gardeners, plumbers and handymen.

■ For every shopper who trades down from luxury stores to discount stores, it will mean less profit for retailers and manufacturers. Retailers will continue to offer few product choices and leaner inventories, and they'll reassess store locations and advertising.

■ If sales of cars and trucks average closer to the recession level of 10 million a year than the 16 million in boom times, more suppliers will fail and further consolidation among automakers could occur. Taxes not paid on lost vehicle sales will continue to stress budgets of state and local governments.

Oil up near $69 ahead of OPEC meeting

Oil prices climbed to near $69 a barrel Monday, helped by rising equity markets, a weaker U.S. dollar and expectations that OPEC will keep its members' output levels steady at this week's meeting.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for October delivery was up 76 cents to $68.78 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday rose 6 cents to settle at $68.02.

Trading volume was light because of Monday's Labor Day holiday in the U.S.

With the dollar losing ground against other currencies, commodities like oil and gold were more attractive to investors looking for a hedge against inflation.

The euro bought $1.4328, up from $1.4309 late Friday in New York, while the British pound rose to $1.6404 from $1.6397.

Surging stock markets also supported oil, as London's FTSE 100 gained 1.6 percent, while Germany's DAX and France's CAC-40 both were up around 1.4 percent.

Traders are eyeing Wednesday's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna. OPEC President Jose Botelho de Vasconcelos, who is also Angola's oil minister, said last week that the 12-member group will likely keep output quotas unchanged.

Crude prices have swung wildly in the past year, reaching $147 a barrel in July 2008 before plunging to $32 a barrel in February. Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, has said $75 is a fair price for consumers and producers.

Some analysts predicted prices would soon bounce back, with oil fundamentals continuing to take a back seat to other developments in equities, the position of the U.S. dollar and speculative investments.

"Oil prices are expected to continue to be driven mainly by financial indicators. It seems only a matter of time before another wave of euphoria in equities boosts oil market sentiment," said a report from KBC Market Services in Britain.

Will safety net hospitals survive health reform?

CHICAGO (AP)—Janie Johnson has no health insurance, so when she cut her toe while giving herself a pedicure, she limped to the emergency room at one of Chicago's safety net hospitals and waited her turn.

"I'm 44, but I probably look about 55 right now," Johnson joked in Stroger Hospital's emergency department where more than 100 patients sat waiting. Urgent cases, from chest pains to gunshot wounds, are rushed to doctors first. Johnson was glad to have somewhere to go for health care.

"I don't know what I would do" without the hospital, she said. "My health would probably get worse."

To all the knotty issues involved in health care overhaul, add one more: The proposals in Congress may threaten the funding and future of the nation's already-struggling safety net hospitals.

It's an irony hospital leaders are expressing quietly as Congress reconvenes this week to take up health care again. Hospital leaders support expanding insurance coverage to more Americans, but they worry financing the expansion will cause some teetering urban hospitals to deteriorate and close.

They point to Massachusetts, the laboratory for health care overhaul, where one safety net hospital, Boston Medical Center, is suing the state claiming it's covering too much of the cost for expanding coverage. Another safety net standby, Cambridge Health Alliance, has closed health centers and cut services; its Somerville Hospital no longer keeps patients overnight.

"It looks like a national plan will be modeled on Massachusetts and it's a disaster for poor people," said Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, Harvard Medical School professor and a doctor at Cambridge Hospital.

"The insurance offered doesn't cover everyone," she said. "It's filled with gaps like copayments and deductibles. Patients can't afford it, so they turn to the public sector and the public sector isn't there anymore."

What worries Woolhandler and others are proposals to finance national reform that would reduce payments gradually to hospitals handling more than their share of uninsured patients. One proposal would reduce these funds—called DSH payments for "disproportionate share hospital"—by $20 billion, in three large annual chunks starting in 2017.

About 2,700 U.S. hospitals receive DSH payments. That's about half the nation's hospitals, according to the American Hospital Association.

A small segment of those hospitals provides most of the nation's charity care to the poor. These institutions, largely supported by reimbursements from Medicaid and other government insurance programs, receive 12 percent of their revenues from DSH payments.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AOL taps exec who famously warned Yahoo of trouble

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—AOL LLC has tapped former Yahoo Inc. executive Brad Garlinghouse for a key position that is meant to beef up the struggling Internet company's presence in Silicon Valley. Garlinghouse, 38, might be best known for calling attention to significant problems at Yahoo in a 2006 internal memo that was referred to as the "peanut butter manifesto" because it argued the Internet company had spread itself too thin. Since then, Yahoo has changed CEOs twice as it has tried to nail down the best formula for keeping chase with Google Inc. in the online advertising market. Its latest leader, Carol Bartz, was hired partly to sharpen the company's focus, and recently sealed a search-advertising pact with Microsoft Corp.

Cadbury rejects Kraft's $16.7 billion bid

LONDON (AP)—Kraft Foods Inc. on Monday proposed a 10.2 billion pound ($16.7 billion) takeover of Cadbury PLC, but the offer was immediately rejected by the British maker of chocolate, gum and candy. Cadbury shares shot up 41 percent to 803.5 pence at midday on the London Stock Exchange, about the minimum analysts suggested Kraft would have to pay to clinch a deal. Cadbury said the offer undervalued the company, and expressed confidence in its "standalone strategy and growth prospects as a result of its strong brands, unique category and geographic scope."

Private sector investing in charter schools

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Charter schools, already seeing a surge in students, are getting attention from another group—private investors. Entertainment Properties Inc., known mostly for sinking its money into movie theaters and wineries, recently bought 22 locations from charter school operator Imagine Schools for about $170 million. The real estate investment trust acts as landlord, while Imagine operates the schools and is using the investment to expand its chain of 74 locations. "They really are an effective source of long-term financing that we can rely on and enables us to do what we're best at, which is running schools, and do what they're best at, which is long-term real estate ownership," said Barry Sharp, chief financial officer for Arlington, Va.-based Imagine. "It's a good fit."

Nation

Obama thanks labor for hard-won rights at work

CINCINNATI (AP)—President Barack Obama declared Monday that modern benefits like paid leave, minimum wage and Social Security "all bear the union label," as he appealed to organized labor to help him win the health care fight in Congress.

"It was labor that helped build the largest middle class in history. So, even if you're not a union member, every American owes something to America's labor movement," said Obama, whose run for the presidency was energized in no small part by unions.

Obama asserted that "our recovery plan is working," but repeated that he won't be satisfied until jobs are much more plentiful.

Shortly after taking the oath, Obama confronted a rapidly deteriorating economy, a clogged credit system, failing or ailing banks and a a shaky stock market. He used his speech here to tick off a host of steps the administration has taken to steady the economy, and he made a special pitch for the health care overhaul he has pushed.

President Barack Obama greets with people after speaking at the AFL-CIO Labor Day picnic at Coney Island in Cincinnati, Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

AP

"We have never been this close," Obama said. "We have never had this broad an agreement on what needs to be done." He accused vested interests of trying to thwart it. Some union-circulated posters held up by audience members proclaimed, "Health Care Can't Wait."

For their part, some elements within the labor movement have indicated frustration with Obama, who traveled to Cincinnati to speak to a state AFL-CIO gathering, because some key items such as legislation making it easier for people to join unions has languished in Congress. To vigorous cheers, Obama made a pitch for the bill in his speech. He also noted that the first bill he signed into law was one guaranteeing equal pay for equal work.

Obama spent a good deal of his time extolling the virtues of the union movement.

"We remember that the rights and benefits we enjoy today were not simply handed out to America's working men and women. They had to be won," he said.

"They had to be fought for, by men and women of courage and conviction, from the factory floors of the Industrial Revolution to the shopping aisles of today's superstores. They stood up and spoke out to demand a fair shake, an honest day's pay for an honest day's work," he said. "Many risked their lives. Some gave their lives. Some made it a cause of their lives—like Sen. Ted Kennedy, who we remember today."

At one point before Obama spoke, some in the crowd broke into chants of "Fired up" and "Ready to Go."

Obama closed with a story about how that phrase became one of his campaign slogans, and appealed to the assembled union rank and file to for help. "Your voice can change the world. Your voice can get health care passed. Your voice will make sure the American worker is protected. You can build America. I need your help," Obama said as the audience broke into more chants.

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis accompanied Obama to Ohio, and the pair appeared in front of a large American flag, nine smaller ones and red, white and blue bunting. Local union organizers handed out 10,000 tickets for access to the area where Obama was to speak. The event was moved indoors to a music pavilion because of threatened thunderstorms.

Former Rep. Joseph Kennedy nixes Senate campaign

BOSTON (AP)—Former Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, the eldest son of Robert F. Kennedy, announced Monday he would not run for the U.S. Senate seat held for nearly 50 years by his late uncle, Edward M. Kennedy. The decision was certain to widen the race for the Democratic nomination.

Kennedy

In a statement, the former six-term congressman said he cares about those seeking decent housing, fair wages and health care. But he added, "The best way for me to contribute to those causes is by continuing my work at Citizens Energy Corp."

The nonprofit organization provides free heating oil to the poor, but Kennedy likely would have faced campaign questions about fuel it received from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez—a persistent U.S. critic. He also has settled into a comfortable lifestyle since leaving Congress in 1999, taking home a $545,000 salary as Citizens Energy's president as of 2007, and being spared the barbs he has faced from some local columnists recently for his past temper tantrums and high pay.

Yet Kennedy also may have garnered support from the legions of Massachusetts Democrats who long supported his uncle, to whom he paid tribute in a widely applauded memorial service speech last month. He also had name recognition among national followers of his father, who was a U.S. senator from New York when he was assassinated in June 1968 while seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

"My father called politics an honorable profession, and I have profound respect for those who choose to advance the causes of social and economic justice in elective office," the 56-year-old Kennedy said. Friends said that among those who had been urging him to consider a candidacy were his own sons, 28-year-old twins Matthew and Joseph III.

Deadly LA-area arson fire active on remote flank

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just as firefighters were intensifying their efforts Monday to contain the flames menacing the foothill neighborhoods of the San Gabriel Valley, another part of the deadly fire in the Angeles National Forest flared up.

Fire officials canceled plans to burn out brush and create a buffer south of the ferocious fire to protect communities from Azusa to Pasadena.

Incident Commander Mike Dietrich said at a Monday night news conference that the weather—including 30-40 mph winds and 10 percent humidity—didn't cooperate, and the aircraft needed to support and monitor the burnout operations were diverted to the fire's northeastern flank.

The blaze was 56 percent contained and had blackened 157,220 acres, or 246 square miles, as it burned deeper into the wilderness in its 13th day, feeding off leaf litter on the ground, old growth and dead timber.

"Even the mountain goats won't climb in there because it's so steep and rugged," U.S. Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy said.

The flames have reached the bottom of the south face of Mount Waterman, which has a small ski area on its northern side.

The cost of the fire fight has climbed to $57.6 million, Dietrich said.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles County sheriff's and fire investigators continued their homicide investigation into the fire. Officials have said the cause of the fire was arson but have released no findings.

Astronauts pack Buzz Lightyear for ride home

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The astronauts aboard the orbiting shuttle and station packed up Buzz Lightyear on Monday for the ride home from "infinity and beyond."

The 12-inch action figure has been at the international space station for more than a year.

Mission Control asked Discovery's crew to do a final check to make certain Buzz was safely stowed on the shuttle, in advance of the closing of the hatches between the linked spacecraft late Monday night. The shuttle will depart Tuesday.

The Buzz Lightyear toy had kept a relatively low profile at the space station since its June 2008 arrival, but was pulled out for extensive filming over the past week. Some of the movie scenes: Buzz going to sleep with an astronaut who lets go, causing the doll to float away and hit a wall, and Buzz flying through a chamber followed by a real spaceman.

NASA said the video will be used in an educational outreach effort for children and have a "Toy Story" movie spin.

As for Buzz, a Walt Disney World spokesman said the toy will take part in "several debriefing sessions" and then a tickertape parade with Apollo 11 moonwalker Buzz Aldrin at the beginning of October. The spokesman said Buzz has become "the longest serving astronaut in space."

The 13 human astronauts had one last major job to accomplish together Monday before parting company.

ACROSS THE NATION

Milwaukee man arrested in connection to 9 deaths

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee police have arrested a man in connection to slayings of nine women dating back to 1986. Police Chief Edward Flynn said Monday that 49-year-old Walter E. Ellis of Milwaukee was arrested Saturday. Prosecutors said he faces two counts of first-degree intentional homicide and more charges are expected. Police said Ellis' DNA was found on the bodies of nine women who were killed between 1986 and 2007. Investigators believe eight were prostitutes and one was a runaway. They ranged in age from 16 to 41. Online court records show that Ellis pleaded no contest in 1998 to a reduced charge of second-degree reckless injury. He was sentenced to five years in prison. Flynn didn't know whether Ellis had an attorney.

Police: RI trooper punched sergeant at fundraiser

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A police official says a Rhode Island state trooper punched a police sergeant at a fundraiser honoring a deceased officer. Providence Deputy police Chief Paul Kennedy says Edward Stenovitch punched Sgt. Bernard Gannon in the head early Saturday at a bar at the Providence police union hall. Stenovitch was charged with assault Monday and released on his own recognizance. His phone number is unlisted. Kennedy says the attack was unprovoked. Gannon was treated for a broken nose. State Police Maj. Elwood M. Johnson Jr. says Stenovitch has been placed on administrative leave pending the results of an internal investigation.

Volunteer NY firefighter honored with 9/11 medal

JERICHO, N.Y. (AP)—A volunteer firefighter who died helping to rescue people from the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has been awarded the 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor. Lawmakers presented Glenn Winuk's relatives with the medal Monday in his Long Island hometown. Winuk was a 40-year-old lawyer and longtime volunteer Jericho firefighter who raced from his Manhattan office into the trade center. He died when the south tower collapsed. The Justice Department initially didn't recognize Winuk as having died in the line of duty because he hadn't been on regular duty since 1998. The agency dropped its objections in January 2008, making him eligible for the medal and a $250,000 death benefit.

Tropical Storm Fred forms in Atlantic

MIAMI (AP)—Forecasters say Tropical Storm Fred has formed in the Atlantic and is expected to strengthen over the next couple of days. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Linda far out in the Pacific Ocean didn't gain in intensity Monday night. According to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fred, the sixth named storm of the Atlantic season, had sustained winds at 40 mph (65 kph). It's about 245 miles (390 km) south of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands. It moving west-northwest at about 15 mph (24 kph). Linda's winds were near 60 mph (55 kph). It was centered about 1,280 miles (2,060 km) west-southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. It's moving west near 7 mph (13 kph).

Asia

Philippine ferry survivor found at sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine air force helicopter plucked to safety Monday a woman who drifted for about 30 hours in choppy seas after the sinking of a ferry that left nine dead. Only one of the nearly 1,000 people who were on board is now unaccounted for.

Housewife Lita Casumlum, 39, was found bobbing with a life jacket about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from where the 7,269-ton *Superferry 9* sank on Sunday. Rear Admiral Alex Pama, who helped supervise the rescue, called it "a miracle."

"She has been drifting amid huge waves for a long time without any food or water," Pama said.

Although she was weak and could hardly speak due to a sore throat, Casumlum was upbeat and joked with reporters in a military hospital in southern Zamboanga city, telling them she had lost money at sea but found two small crabs in her pocket after her rescue.

"I just prayed. I thought of my family," she said.

A massive air, land and sea search will continue for the lone missing passenger, and a special coast guard ship has been deployed to check signs of an oil spill, officials said.

Coast guard chief Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo said an investigation will begin later this week to find out why the vessel—its power flickering on and off—sank off the southern province of Zamboanga del Norte province.

Tamayo said other passenger ferries of the Aboitiz Transport System, which owned the sunken vessel, will be confined to port so their seaworthiness could be checked.

Superferry 9 had set sail from General Santos in the south on Saturday and was headed to Iloilo city in the central Philippines.

The Philippines has suffered numerous maritime disasters in the past. Officials said Monday that the successful rescue effort this time was largely due to help given by two passing cargo ships and military bomber planes and gunboats which are used to fight al-Qaida-linked militants and are based about 43 miles (70 kilometers) away from where the ferry sank.

Capt. Jose Yap, who was among the survivors, issued the "abandon ship" order at 4:40 a.m. (2040GMT) after the ferry started listing. The vessel, built in 1986 in Japan, sank six hours later, the coast guard said.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2009 photo released by the Philippine Air Force 505th Search and Rescue Squadron based at the 3rd Air Division in Zamboanga city, Lita Casumlum, a ferry survivor, bottom, is hoisted by an air force rescuer after she was spotted in shark-infested waters off Zamboanga peninsula in southern Philippines after bobbing with a life-jacket for more than 30 hours.

As panic ensued, passengers leapt into the dark sea and parents dropped children into life rafts bobbing in the choppy sea, according to witnesses.

The passing cargo and container ships arrived less than an hour after receiving a coast guard emergency call for assistance. About two hours later, two assault navy boats guided by two OV-10 bomber planes and two Huey helicopters arrived and began to pluck survivors from the ferry and the sea, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said.

"When our assets arrived, people were floating everywhere," Dolorfino told The Associated Press, adding the military searched a three-mile (five-kilometer) radius from the sinking ferry.

"The presence of many military assets in the area was a big factor" in the successful rescue, he said.

A military pilot on Monday reported what appears to be an oil slick near where the ferry sank. The coast guard, which has deployed a containment ship to the area, has been informed and will verify if there has been an oil spill from the ferry, which reportedly carried 250 tons of fuel and lubricant oil, Pama said.

Tamayo said there was no sign terrorism played any part in the sinking.

Abu Sayyaf militants bombed another Superferry in Manila Bay in 2004, setting off an inferno that killed 116 people.

Last year, a ferry rapidly overturned after sailing toward a powerful typhoon in the central Philippines, killing more than 800 people on board.

In December 1987, the ferry *Dona Paz* sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the Philippines, killing more than 4,341 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan premier resigns over handling of typhoon

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's premier resigned Monday amid strong criticism of the government's slow response to the most devastating storm to hit the island in 50 years, and the president immediately named a senior official from the ruling party to replace him. Liu Chao-shiuan said he was leaving office because his Cabinet had completed the initial stage of rehabilitation work after Typhoon Morakot slammed into the island Aug. 8-9 and left an estimated 670 people dead. "I have completed my duties at this phase," said Liu, who has held his post since Ma Ying-jeou became president in May 2008.

Afghan group says NATO strike killed 70 civilians

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan rights group said Monday a recent airstrike on a pair of hijacked fuel tankers killed as many as 70 civilians in northern Afghanistan, as the German troops whose commander ordered the bombing defended the action. Afghan Rights Monitor, an independent human rights group, reported that its survey of the area following Friday's attack shows it killed as many as 70 villagers who were siphoning gas from the vehicles after they became stuck on a sand spit in the Kunduz River. The group's report came as the German government backed down from its previous insistence that only the Taliban hijackers had died, conceding some civilians likely were killed

Strong quake hits Indonesia; no injuries, damage

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey says a 6.1-magnitude earthquake has hit off the eastern coast of the main Indonesian island of Java. Sutiyono from Indonesia's Meteorological and Geophysics Agency said there were no reports of causalities or damage. He also said no tsunami warning was triggered. Sutiyono, like many Indonesians, uses only one name. The temblor struck late Monday at a depth of about 10 miles (15 kilometers) about 385 miles (620 kilometers) southeast of the capital, Jakarta. Last week, a 7.0-magnitude quake shook Java, killing at least 64 people. Rescuers are still searching for bodies, but there is little hope of finding survivors.

Taliban car bomber hits convoy in Afghan capital

KABUL (AP)—A car bomb exploded near the entrance to Kabul's military airport early Tuesday in an apparent attack on an international convoy, killing at least two civilians and wounding six, Afghan officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast.

U.S. and NATO forces said they did not yet have details on the incident or any casualties, but Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary said at least two Afghan civilians were killed and six wounded.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, and said that a suicide car bomber rammed into a NATO convoy and destroyed three Landcruisers.

The early morning blast in the Afghan capital rattled windows more than a mile away and flames continued to shoot out from burned vehicles more than an hour later as fire trucks ringed the area. Small blasts could be heard, likely from ammunition exploding inside the vehicles.

A police official for the area, Rohullah, confirmed the attack and said it appeared to be against a NATO convoy. Like many Afghans, the official goes by one name.

A witness said he saw the car ram into a line of SUVs.

"I saw three or four Landcruisers for the foreigners just in front of the gate ... then there was a car and it hit them then blew up," said Humayun, who watched the attack from his nearby shop.

U.S. forces spokesman Lt. Col. Todd Vician confirmed an explosion south of the airport, but said he did not yet have further details. The military airport is right next to Kabul's civilian airport, but they have separate entrances.

Insurgent attacks, often deadly, occur in Kabul despite tight security and blast walls. Suicide bombers have hit government buildings and gunmen have overrun ministries.

NATO said that two militants fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the rear gate of Camp Phoenix outside Kabul late Monday, but there were no injuries to anyone inside and no damage to the base. Afghan police said the two militants were killed.

In the runup to Aug. 20 elections, a suicide attack near the main gate of NATO headquarters killed seven people, gunmen briefly took over a bank in the city, and insurgents fired on the presidential palace and unleashed suicide car bombers on NATO convoys.

UN says Khmer Rouge tribunal must be independent

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The U.N. administrator for the Khmer Rouge tribunal issued a blunt reminder to Prime Minister Hun Sen that the panel is independent, after the Cambodian leader suggested that arresting more suspects for trial could spark a civil war.

The U.N.-backed tribunal ruled last week that prosecutors could pursue further arrests beyond the five Khmer Rouge leaders already indicted, in a decision opposed by the panel's Cambodian co-prosecutor but supported by his international counterparts.

Hun Sen said Monday that he had devoted several years to persuading Khmer Rouge leaders and their soldiers to stop fighting, so he could not allow anyone to drag the country back into a new civil war by putting additional suspects them on trial.

Knut Rosandhaug, Coordinator of the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge trials, subsequently issued a statement that he expects the tribunal to continue to work independently.

"It is a clearly established international standard that courts do not seek approval of advice on their work from the executive branch," he said.

Amnesty: Fiji's military regime rules by fear

SYDNEY (AP)—Fiji's military regime is using beatings, arbitrary arrests, censorship and intimidation to rule the South Pacific country by fear, Amnesty International alleged Tuesday.

The global rights watchdog also cited China for going against an international trend of imposing sanctions on Fiji to punish those responsible for a 2006 coup, and urged Beijing to use its new influence to protect human rights there.

Military-installed Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama did not immediately respond to the Amnesty report, the latest international condemnation of the military chief's seizure of power and refusal to restore democracy.

London-based Amnesty said Bainimarama's regime has committed multiple human rights violations since April when the constitution was shelved in response to a court ruling that his takeover was unlawful and emergency regulations known as PER put in place.

"The abrogation of the constitution, the promulgation of the PER, the dismissal of the judiciary, subsequent political arrests and intimidation of activists have led to a climate of fear and desperation amongst human rights defenders, lawyers, the NGO community and society as a whole," the Amnesty report says.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Bomb misses Iraq health ministry official, kills 1

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi police and health officials say a Health Ministry official escaped an assassination attempt when a roadside bomb hit his convoy in eastern Baghdad, but one ministry employee died in the blast. Three people in the four-vehicle convoy and four bystanders were also wounded in the attack on Tuesday that appeared directed at Dr. Ali Bustan al-Fartosi, who is in charge of eastern Baghdad's medical facilities. The officials said the doctor escaped unharmed. The police official said it was not known why the doctor was targeted. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Gabon opposition calls for election recount

PORT GENTIL, Gabon (AP)—Gabon's main opposition parties on Monday demanded authorities conduct a recount of a disputed election the government said was won by the son of the country's long-ruling president. Fifteen of the 17 candidates who took part in the Aug. 30 vote held a news conference in the capital, Libreville, to voice their concerns about Ali Bongo's victory. They offered no proof, but alleged in a joint statement there had been "serious manipulation." The second- and third-place finishers—opposition leaders Andre Mba Obame and Pierre Mamboundou—were present. It was the first time Mamboundou appeared in public since results were announced Thursday.

Mexico: 4 men gunned down at Ciudad Juarez motel

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Attackers shot four men to death in a motel parking lot in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's deadliest city. The victims were standing outside a vehicle drinking alcohol Sunday when they were shot multiple times, said Arturo Sandoval, spokesman for the regional North Zone prosecutor's office. Ciudad Juarez, which is across from El Paso, Texas, has suffered the worst of Mexico's drug violence, with more than 1,300 deaths so far this year. The city is home to the Juarez cartel, which has been in a turf battle with the rival Sinaloa cartel for lucrative drug routes.

Israel OKs hundreds of new West Bank apartments

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel officially approved the construction of hundreds of new homes in the West Bank, the Defense Ministry said Monday, deepening an already unprecedented rift with the U.S. over Israeli settlement expansion.

The construction is the first approved by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is under heavy U.S. pressure to freeze all settlement activity on captured lands claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

■ ■ ■

CAIRO (AP)—The leader of Hamas on Sunday warned against Israel's proposal to temporarily halt settlement construction in exchange for normalization with Arab countries, describing it as "dangerous."

Khaled Mashaal also told reporters during his brief visit to Cairo that despite new German mediation efforts, there was still a long way to go in negotiations over the release of an Israeli soldier held by the militant group since 2006.

"As you know there has been a development with the German mediation taking place with the knowledge of Egypt and in coordination with us," he said, referring to talks over a prisoner exchange including Sgt. Gilad Schalit. "We are still in the beginning we haven't yet gotten into details or discussing the names, there is a still not a short path to go, which requires patience."

Hamas demands the release of hundreds of Palestinians by Israel, in exchange for Schalit. His release is considered a key to lifting the siege on the seaside territory, in place since 2007.

AP

An Israeli flag is seen in front of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maaleh Adumim, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

■ ■ ■

Netanyahu, trying to placate the Americans, has said the newly approved homes are a prelude to a freeze, but that's been a tough sell internationally because Israel also plans to complete an additional 2,500 homes already under way.

Under the order, Defense Minister Ehud Barak authorized construction of 366 new apartments, the Defense Ministry announced. An additional 84 new apartments will be approved in the near future, bringing the total number to 450, the ministry said.

The order includes permission to proceed with construction of a new settler enclave in the Jordan Valley, an area that is considered vital to a future Palestinian state because of its rich farmlands and location deep inside the West Bank.

By rebuffing U.S. pressure, Netanyahu has tried to cement the support of a coalition that is committed to strengthening Israel's control over the West Bank.

At the same time, he has offered to slow construction afterward in exchange for overtures from the Arab world. This has not mollified the Americans or the Palestinians, who have demanded an immediate and total freeze.

"Given the choice between making peace and making settlements, they have chosen to make settlements," chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs responded Monday by referring to an earlier statement criticizing the Israeli plans and calling for a construction halt.

George Mitchell, the U.S. Mideast envoy, is due in the region within the coming week to hold yet another round of talks meant to wrest Israeli concessions that would allow the resumption of Israel-Palestinian peace talks.

Netanyahu aides have spoken optimistically of reaching an accommodation. But it is not clear that optimism is warranted because Netanyahu's so-called building moratorium would not apply to the 450 new apartments, to 2,500 already under construction, or to disputed east Jerusalem.

UK court convicts 3 of plot to blow up airliners

LONDON (AP)—Three British Muslims were convicted Monday of plotting to murder thousands by downing at least seven airliners bound for the U.S. and Canada in what was intended as the largest terrorist attack since Sept. 11.

A jury at a London court found Abdulla Ahmed Ali, 28, Assad Sarwar, 29, and Tanvir Hussain, 28, guilty of conspiracy to murder by detonating explosives on aircraft while they were in-flight.

Four other alleged conspirators—whom the prosecution said were to have smuggled liquid explosives onboard jetliners disguised as soft drinks—were acquitted of conspiring to blow up planes. The jury could not reach a verdict on an eighth man.

British and U.S. security officials said the plan—unlike many recent homegrown European terrorist plots—was directly linked to al-Qaida and guided by senior Islamic militants in Pakistan, who hoped to mount a spectacular strike on the West.

The officials said British plotters were likely just days away from mounting their suicide attacks when police rounded up 25 people in dawn raids in August 2006.

Their arrests led to travel chaos as hundreds of jetliners were grounded across Europe. Discovery of the plot also triggered changes to airport security, including new restrictions on the amount of liquids and gels passengers can take onto flights.

Prosecutors said suspects had identified seven specific flights from London's Heathrow airport to New York, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto and Montreal, as their targets.

British authorities estimate that, if successful, around 2,000 passengers would have died. If bombs were detonated over U.S. and Canadian cities, hundreds more would have been killed on the ground.

Plotters planned to assemble bombs in airplane toilets using hydrogen peroxide-based explosives injected into soda bottles.

"They were to be detonated in-flight by suicide bombers," including several of the accused, prosecutor Peter Wright said.

Tests by scientists who replicated the bombs in a laboratory showed the devices could produce powerful explosions, though there is no evidence that the terrorist cell had perfected the technique.

Wright told the trial that the group's suicide attacks were planned by "men with the cold-eyed certainty of the fanatic" and intended as "a violent and deadly statement of intent that would have a truly global impact."

Point man in Mexico's war on drug cartels resigns

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's point man in the drug war resigned Monday in a Cabinet shakeup that raised questions on whether the government's strategy to crack down on brutal gangs will change course.

Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora did not give a reason for his resignation, saying only in his farewell speech that "we have done a lot to clean the house," referring to his efforts to combat rampant police and government corruption.

His resignation was one of three announced by President Felipe Calderon. Agriculture Secretary Alberto Cardenas and the director of the oil monopoly, Petroleos Mexicanos, Jesus Reyes Heroles, also gave up their posts.

Medina-Mora's campaign against corruption led to the arrest of several mayors and high-ranking law enforcement officials in the last year. Among them was his subordinate, former drug czar Noe Ramirez, who was arrested for allegedly taking at least $450,000 from a member of a drug cartel in exchange for passing on information about police operations.

The attorney general was highly praised by U.S. law enforcement officials. A top U.S. police source in Mexico said there was no evidence Medina-Mora was involved in corruption. The official insisted on not being quoted by name for fear of being targeted by drug cartels.

Calderon named Medina-Mora to lead his drug war after taking office in December 2006, shortly before he launched his crackdown on organized crime by sending soldiers and federal police to Mexico's drug hotspots.

"His professionalism, his commitment and loyalty to Mexico have been crucial in pushing forward the modernization and the cleaning of the justice department and in hitting hard organized crime like we have done," Calderon said Monday.

Anti-Chavez TV station faces possible shutdown

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The government said Monday a leading TV channel aligned with Venezuela's opposition could lose its broadcast license for allegedly airing a viewer's text message calling for a coup and the assassination of President Hugo Chavez.

Diosdado Cabello, president of the telecommunications commission, said authorities will also ask prosecutors for a criminal probe to determine whether the owners of Globovision should face trial for allegedly trying to incite rebellion.

Asked if the government would close Globovision, Cabello responded: "That depends on the investigation."

Ana Cristina Nunez, Globovision's legal adviser, said the channel would never intentionally broadcast unlawful text messages.

"We are very careful in attempting to stop people from using Globovision's screen to make illegal petitions," Nunez said.

Earlier in the day, the telecommunications commission issued a statement accusing Globovision—the last major channel on Venezuela's regular airwaves that is strongly critical of Chavez—of airing messages that "allude to violent acts," including a call for a coup attempt.

The 24-hour news channel also purportedly sought to "promote public protests, which could generate a climate of tension and nervousness in the population," it said.

Chavez's government closed 32 radio stations and two small television stations last month and Cabello said last week that an additional 29 radio stations "will soon leave" the airwaves.

Cabello says some stations failed to update their registrations or let their concessions expire, while others held licenses granted to an operator who is now deceased. "We are acting within the law," he said Monday.

Campus Life

Advice from six CNMI college students

By ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As summer draws to a close, recent CNMI high school graduates are leaving the islands for college, and rising seniors in CNMI high schools are figuring out how to best prepare for life after high school. To help students prepare for college in the mainland and the challenges that come with it, the *Saipan Tribune* asked six college students from the CNMI to share their experiences and offer some advice.

Tell us about your college experience.

"Going to college was basically entering a whole new world," said In Yong Chung, Marianas Baptist Academy '07, who is entering his third year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"It's been amazing so far," said Henry Chan, Saipan International School '07, a junior at New York University. "I've experienced a ton of new things and have been able to take advantage of so many opportunities."

One such opportunity is the ability to study abroad; this fall Chan will be studying for a semester in Prague, Czech Republic. Although he is looking forward to that experience, he has also enjoyed his time in one of the nation's most famous cities.

"Choosing to go to school in New York is a decision that I do not regret," said Chan. "It may be far from home, but I have met so many different people here that it has certainly shaped my outlook on life, as well as views that I once thought were unchangeable."

Rachel Reyes, Marianas High School '08, also said that college changed the way she looked at the world.

"College has been a time for me to really take responsibility for myself," said Reyes, who is a sophomore at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. "I've met people from all walks of life, and I've learned to value seeing things from the eyes of another person. I've also learned that if I want something, I am the first person who has to initiate."

Why did you choose to go to college in the mainland?

"Living on an island, I felt like all I knew was Saipan," Reyes said. "I wanted to step out of my comfort zone."

Her desire for change was echoed by Steven Johnson, Mount Carmel School '06, who is entering his senior year at Barry University in Miami, Florida.

"I wanted a new experience," he said.

What are the best ways to prepare for college?

Of the students interviewed, taking Advanced Placement courses—college-level classes offered in high school—was the most frequently recommended way of getting ready for college.

"AP classes prepared me most for college," Chung said. "[They] would have helped me more than they already did if I had listened more attentively in class."

"I was really surprised at how my classmates who attended great schools here in the mainland didn't know… things I learned in my AP classes," Reyes said. "Students from the islands shouldn't feel intimidated by other students who grew up here in the states. The $200 science textbook for my first college biology class was the same one used in my AP biology class at MHS!"

In addition to these courses, Johnson and Nicolette Villagomez, MCS '07, cited the Junior Statesmen of America summer program as great preparation for college.

"[It] taught me to be diligent with my studies and learn how to manage my time," said Villagomez, who is a junior at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

What are ways that your high schools could have prepared you more for college?

"High school was definitely a lot of fun," said Andrea Hofschneider, Grace Christian Academy '06 and a senior at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. "I met a lot of people and I played a lot of volleyball, but it wasn't challenging, mentally stimulating. Academically ....we needed a whole range of AP classes. We needed calculus. We needed a college counselor and probably more guest speakers."

"No one knew what they were getting themselves into, not even me," she added.

"Teachers really need to challenge the students," said Villagomez. "The last two years should be more college-oriented, so that the transition from high school to college won't be so dramatic."

Johnson, who is studying biology, cited the need for more hands-on experience in high school science classes.

"Going to a lab for the first time was a bit of a shock," he said.

What do you wish you had known before college?

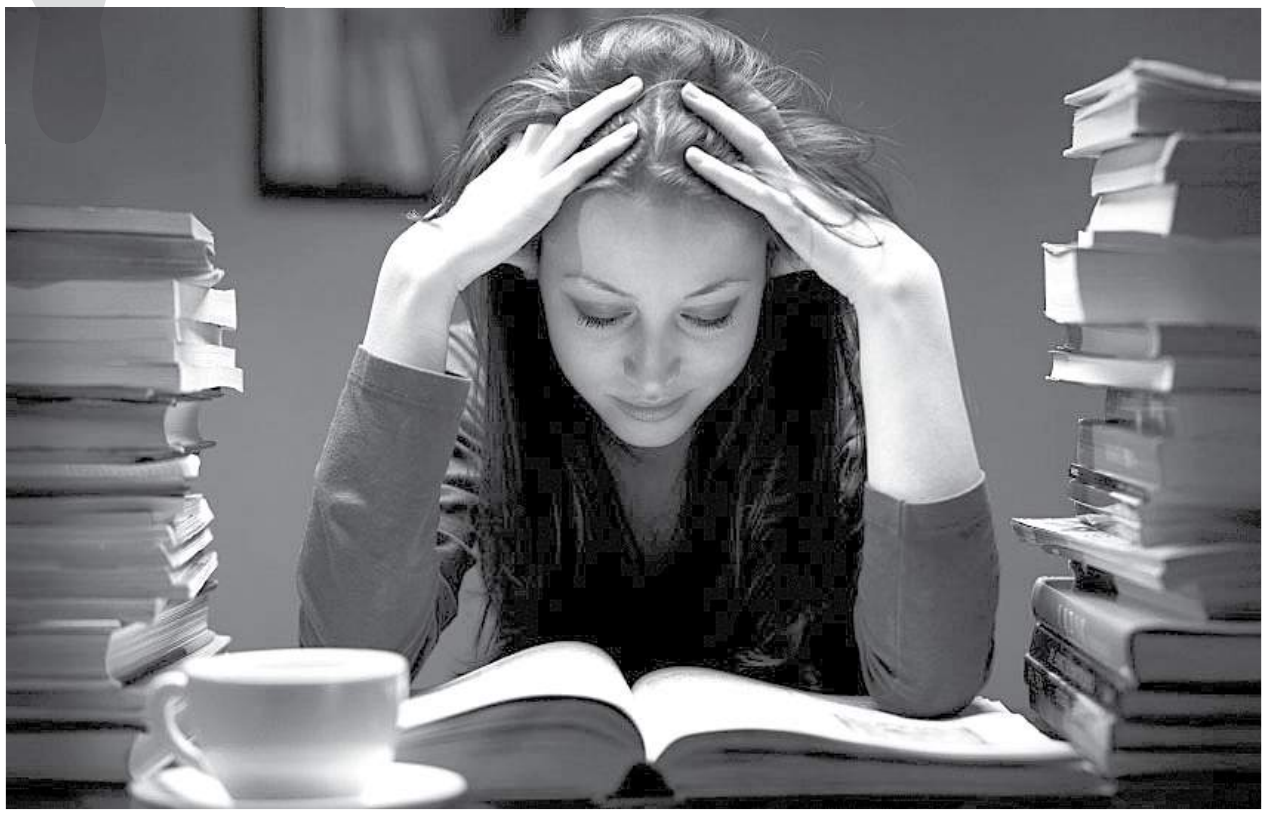
"That college is not easy at all. It is a whole different ball game!" Villagomez said. "It challenges you in every way and it is up to you to succeed or not."

"[I wish I knew that] everyone's in the same boat, and although some people seem more intelligent than others, you need to have the confidence to speak out and connect with your professors and network, especially in freshman year," Hofschneider said. "You need to ask all your questions and participate in class because that's the only way you're going to learn."

Other students said they wish they had entered college with a better knowledge of finances.

"I wish in high school they taught more financial responsibility and budgeting," Johnson said.

"I wish I knew more about how financial aid works, and also about all the extra expenses that you don't know about until you get there," Reyes said.



Of the students interviewed, taking Advanced Placement courses—college-level classes offered in high school—was the most frequently recommended way of getting ready for college.

What if you're having a hard time?

"The number one thing is to talk to your professors as much as you can," Johnson said.

"Don't shy away from tutors," he added. "You definitely have to humble yourself."

Hofschneider agreed, relating that when she was struggling with an economics class, she sought a tutor.

"Students who receive a third or a full letter grade below what they had received in high school during their freshman year of college should realize that it takes time to adjust to college-level academics; pretty much everyone goes through that phase," Chung said. "However, make sure you aren't overloading yourself with too many classes. …Visit your academic counselor at least once a semester so that they can help you select a manageable course load while still graduating in time."

As for dealing with homesickness, Reyes urged: "Never hesitate to call home."

What are the hardest aspects of going to college in the mainland?

Each one mentioned different challenges that they have had to overcome.

"The workload and getting used to the new levels of responsibility [are the hardest aspects]," Chan said. "You're basically on your own for 9-10 months of the year."

"I don't like the extreme weather," Chung said. "[During Michigan winters] the wind literally stings; if you touch the snow with your bare hands, it hurts."

"Probably [the hardest part is] being so far away from family," Johnson said. He said he is the only person he knows from Saipan attending college in Florida.

What about the money?

For students from the CNMI, the cost of attending college in the mainland continues to be a huge barrier. All five of the students interviewed take advantage of some federal and CNMI scholarships and/or university financial aid.

"There is so much financial aid out there! You just have to go out and find it!" Villagomez said.

The students suggested searching online for scholarships and talking to financial aid officers at your college.

"You can't win if you don't apply," Reyes said.

"The financial cost of college has been the most difficult obstacle for me to overcome, but I have never regretted my decision to attend college," Chan said.

"It may seem impossible but if you're really motivated you'll find a way to get those finances and get off island because it's really worth the effort you put into it," Hofschneider said.

American schools challenged to save energy and money with 'Energy Star'

During the back to school season, EPA is challenging school administrators and building managers to improve energy efficiency throughout their facilities. School districts can answer EPA's call-to-action by taking the Energy Star Challenge, a pledge to improve the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings. Schools that accept the challenge will join more than 500 school districts across the country that are helping to fight climate change by committing to reducing their energy use with help from Energy Star.

"Our schools are doing their best to prepare our children for the future, and now they can help make sure that future includes a clean, safe environment," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Taking the Energy Star Challenge will help participating districts cut down on their electricity bills. Money they would have spent on energy can go back into the classroom, where it really belongs."

The annual energy bill to operate America's primary and secondary schools totals nearly $8 billion—more than is spent on textbooks and computers combined. Schools that take the Energy Star Challenge can use energy tracking tools, technical guidance, case studies, and other Energy Star tools and resources to help them improve their energy efficiency.

ON THE NET

- Sign up your school for the Energy Star Challenge: http://energystar.gov/challenge
- See map of Energy Star qualified schools near you: http://www.energystar.gov/buildinglist

Nearly 2,000 schools have earned EPA's Energy Star label for superior energy efficiency, including some in Oregon's Gresham-Barlow School District, which cut energy use by 48 percent. In one year, the district saved more than $1.3 million in utility costs, the equivalent of 24 fulltime teachers' salaries. Council Rock, a school district in Pa., has reduced its energy use by 40 percent since 2005, mostly through improved operations and maintenance of building systems. In a three-year period, the district saved more than $4.7 million.

EPA is also asking parents, teachers and students to work together to save energy at home and at school. To engage youth and families in learning about changes they can make in their homes and schools to save energy and protect the environment, Energy Star has teamed with Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Today, a national organization dedicated to supporting family involvement in education. Together with Energy Star, PTO Today offers "Go Green Night" activities to the nation's parent-teacher organizations, to help families learn about saving energy together. ***(EPA)***

Life & Style

Stardom rests on the word of kids

By CHRIS LEE
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They were words on which a young man's fate would hinge: "Dad, you should check this out."

Focus Features chief executive James Schamus was doing homework with his then-15-year-old daughter, Nona, one evening in 2007. When it came time for a break, the two began perusing YouTube videos. Nona wanted her father—who heads the specialty studio known for making art-house fare such as "Atonement," "Lost in Translation" and "Brokeback Mountain"—to watch a clip featuring Demetri Martin, a stand-up comedian. Nerdily dressed, strumming a guitar and delivering deadpan one-liners, Martin performed a routine called "Jokes With Guitar."

"I loved how gentle and observant and smart Demetri's voice was," said Schamus, who had never heard of Martin.

"I called up Demetri's agent and said, 'I have no movie to pitch. I'd just like to meet him,'" Schamus recalled. "The meeting was completely awkward and totally stilted. But it gave me about three minutes of street cred at home."

Half a year later, Schamus' frequent collaborator, Oscar-winning director Ang Lee, presented him the memoir he wanted Schamus to adapt for his next project: "Taking Woodstock." As Schamus read the material, he heard Martin's voice in his head.

"I realized I wanted a gentle but really funny kind of humor as the tone for the film," Schamus said. "And I really thought Ang should meet Demetri."

Martin, 36, now stars as the central character in Lee's Summer of Love-set dramedy "Taking Woodstock," written and produced by Schamus, which reached theaters in August. Aug. 28.

The character, a closeted gay artist who shelves his ambitions to help his Jewish parents run their Catskills motel—and enables an epochal rock fest—is a breakthrough part for Martin. But the gig came about because of Schamus' daughter. "Of course, I'm going to do everything she tells me from now on in my career!" Schamus said.

The comedian is hardly the only up-and-comer plucked from obscurity by the child of a filmmaker, studio head or actor. These days, the scions of moviedom's elite have increasing sway; they are taken seriously by the establishment as clued-in culture consumers with a keen eye for star power.

In Hollywood, where youth reigns supreme and the adage, "It's not what you know, it's who you know" is gospel, the "my-kid-discovered-you" phenomenon is hardly new.

Joanna Colbert, co-founder of Colbert/Mento Casting who was head of casting at Universal Pictures from 1994 to 2001, worked with studio executives who regularly based important casting decisions on their children's recommendations.

"I rolled my eyes at that," Colbert said. "The insidious aspect of this business, the incestuousness of it, is that these kids go to private schools and get cast because of who their friends are."

But that was before Colbert had a child. She admitted the influence of her 8-year-old son has changed her outlook.

"He watches a show called 'iCarly' that I never would have heard of," Colbert said. "Do I watch it with a casting director's eye? Yes. Jerry Trainor from the show is adorable and I had never seen him before. I brought him in to read for a movie."

The phenomenon can be seen as reflecting an era in which an "audition" can take on myriad forms.

Jonah Hill was Jonah Hill Goldstein before he became a muse to comedy mogul Judd Apatow, starring in 2007's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and the upcoming "Get Him to the Greek."

Growing up in Los Angeles, Hill never had any ambition to perform. Instead, he moved to New York to study writing at New School university. Hill also frequented the Black and White, an East Village bar.

The bar had an open-mike night: a soapbox for bleeding hearts. Hill was inspired to write a spoof monologue, intending to perform the piece straight. About half the audience was appalled, while the gag killed with the other 50 percent.

"One day, Dustin Hoffman's kids, Jake and Becky, came and saw it and we became fast friends," Hill recalled in 2006, "and they were like, 'You should meet my dad.'

"I didn't know their dad was an actor or anything, so I was like, 'Cool, you should meet my dad. He's an accountant. '"

Hoffman caught a performance and took a shine to Hill.

"So we all started hanging out and he sell, and I auditioned for his movie," Hill said. "That was my first movie, 'I ♥ Huckabees.'"

His small part as the excitable son of a family hosting a Sudanese exchange student led to him being cast on the TV show "Undeclared" and fortuitous "discovery" by "Freaks & Geeks" writer-executive producer Apatow, who was preparing his directing debut feature, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

Apatow cast the baby-faced actor in the movie. Hill has since appeared in every film Apatow has directed, including "Knocked Up" and "Funny People."

Auditioning actors in Mumbai, India, for the central role in "Slumdog Millionaire," British director Danny Boyle had run into a problem.

"I had been looking at all these guys in Bollywood, where we had found the rest of the cast," Boyle said in 2008. "There were some really good lads for the part, but they all had the wrong look for me ... I wanted a guy who didn't look like a potential hero; I wanted him to earn that in the film."

Boyle's then-17-year-old daughter, Caitlin, was an avid fan of "Skins," the popular television series that follows drug-taking, sex-obsessed teenagers—a British equivalent to "Gossip Girl." She suggested one of the program's stars, a gangly 17-year-old with soulful eyes named Dev Patel, for the part.

"While I hadn't really thought about Dev, as soon as she said that, I thought, 'Yeah,'" said Boyle.

Although it was only his second audition, Patel, the British-born son of parents of Indian descent, iced it. He went on to be nominated for a host of awards, including an MTV Movie Award, a BAFTA Award and an Image Award, and won several film critics' awards for his breakthrough performance.

At age 14, Alden Ehrenreich was enrolled in a theater program and was making his own short films.

When it came time for a friend's bat mitzvah, Ehrenreich shot and starred in a short film—"a ridiculous, jokey thing"—with two friends and screened it at the friend's party.

"In it, I ran around as a skinny little punk, trying on girls' clothes and eating dirt," Ehrenreich recalled in New York magazine. "My mom was like, 'I really don't know if you want to present yourself that way. It's not the best portrait, and there are a lot of people who will be watching this.' To be honest, you go to a bat mitzvah in Los Angeles and you can count on a few industry people to be there. But it wasn't like we thought of that."

Steven Spielberg happened to be among those in attendance and soon Ehrenreich was hearing that he "really liked the movie." Spielberg arranged to have executives from DreamWorks, the studio he co-founded, procure an agent for Ehrenreich. From there, by his own description, the actor went on "hundreds and hundreds and hundreds" of auditions, which led to TV spots.

He then caught the eye of Fred Roos, a longtime right-hand man of Francis Ford Coppola who was executive producing the "Godfather" auteur's semi-autobiographical indie feature "Tetro."

The writer-director put Ehrenreich through six months of screen tests at his Napa vineyard before handing him the part: the youngest brother in an Italian-American family who travels to Argentina in search of his brother (Vincent Gallo).

"Tetro" barely caused a ripple at the box office upon its release in June, grossing just over $450,000. While reviews were mixed, critics warmed to the actor's performance.

Still,Colbert said that input from the kids of Hollywood heavyweights hasn't fundamentally altered the way she or the town operates.

"It doesn't affect the way I cast," Colbert said. "It's certainly not interfering. And it's not that prevalent."

Although Schamus credits his daughter with pointing out Martin (who has landed his own Comedy Central show, "Important Things With Demetri Martin," and lined up several projects as a writer-actor), Schamus scoffs at the notion that he's using his children as a "teenage focus group for my business. It's not a calculated thing."

But Schamus admits to some apprehension about maintaining his cultural currency without his daughters' help.

"Nona is 17 now, and my other daughter, Djuna, is 13," Schamus said. "I'm starting to panic now about what I'm going to do when they go to college. I'm going to be completely out of it!"

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Focus Features chief executive James Schamus got his first look at Demetri Martin, in photo, while watching YouTube videos with his daughter.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

British director Danny Boyle auditioned many prospects in India for "Slumdog Millionaire" before his daughter suggested Dev Patel, shown here, from a British TV show.

At 5, singer is already hitting career high notes

By CATHERINE CHENEY
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Kaitlyn Maher stood at the window of her suburban home, waving and smiling, excited about the interview. Inside, three dolls waited on the stairs, a "welcoming committee" she had arranged for the occasion. Kaitlyn, one of the top 10 finalists on "America's Got Talent," who has an upcoming Disney movie and debut album, was still very much a 5-year-old.

Already, though, her Twitter account read: "kaitlynmaher Is looking forward to 'Washington Post' reporter visiting tonight to do an interview with her! :)."

When Kaitlyn was 18 months old, her parents thought she might have a problem: She never stopped singing and always sang herself to sleep. Worried that she wasn't getting enough sleep, Alison and Reuben Maher took her to the pediatrician. The diagnosis: She just loves to sing.

When Kaitlyn was 3, relatives in Canada asked whether she would come sing at a birthday party. Alison was pregnant with her second child, Ethan. So the Mahers, of Ashburn, Va., said they'd send a video of Kaitlyn singing. When they couldn't e-mail the video, they resorted to YouTube.

Five months later, NBC's "America's Got Talent" asked Kaitlyn to audition for Season 3. Reuben and Alison said they debated the idea, but Kaitlyn was excited.

On the way to New York, she told her parents that she wanted to see "the sparkles come down" at the finale. "OK, sweetheart, just try your best and have fun," answered Reuben, a director of an information tech practice.

The Mahers said they told their daughter to pray if she really wanted to see the sparkles come down.

Kaitlyn was selected. On the episode when she was introduced to audiences nationwide, she walked to center stage as the audience and judges smiled. Holding the corner of her pink dress with one hand and a microphone with the other, Kaitlyn sang "Somewhere Out There" from the animated film "An American Tail," pronouncing her r's as w's and revealing her lisp with each s.

Her voice surprised everyone, immediately turning viewers into fans.

Kaitlyn moved from New York to Las Vegas to Hollywood to the top 40 and, finally, the top 10. She sang the Jackson 5's "I'll Be There" and, paired against an operatic rendition of "All by Myself" by contestant Neal Boyd, Kaitlyn was eliminated and excluded from the top five. "I don't think it would probably be fair to you to put you onto a Las Vegas stage," said judge Piers Morgan on the Sept. 17, 2008, episode.

"She learned you don't always win, which is a good lesson," said Reuben, 36. "But she was in it for the gold."

Kaitlyn was invited back to the Oct. 1 finale. Reuben watched from home in awe as, in the final shot, the top 10 walked onto the stage. The winner held Kaitlyn up in the air as the "sparkles" came down.

Kaitlyn has since performed at the 2008 lighting of the National Christmas Tree and the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Festival. She spent January through April in Hollywood with her mom and baby brother to meet with agents for "Santa Buddies," a Disney movie expected on DVD Nov. 24, in which she is the voice of a dog named Tiny. And she is recording her debut album, set for release in early October, in Nashville.

Kaitlyn said she enjoyed filming the movie but prefers singing. "It glorifies God and it makes people happy," she explained.

Ruben and Alison said they believe Kaitlyn can make a difference, and even bless people, with her voice.

"When you sing, what happens?" Reuben asked Kaitlyn.

"Dad smiles," Kaitlyn said.

"And what else happens?" Reuben asked.

"People are blessed," she answered, smiling.

THE WASHINGTON POST

At 5, Kaitlyn Maher finished among the top 10 on Season 3 of "America's Got Talent" and has an upcoming Disney movie and debut album. "I can't tell you how many thousands of times I've heard, 'Let her just be a kid,' " her father says. "But she pushes us."

"We have had hundreds—I would say thousands, but MySpace deletes them—of people who have been blessed from her singing," said Reuben He said he has heard from people who have medical problems or depression who claim they are cured after hearing Kaitlyn sing.

Her life is online for all to see, displayed through blurbs, posts, videos and cellphone pictures, on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. As artists use social media to market not only their music but also their daily lives, keeping a balance is a tough task for parents of child stars.

"We want to give (fans) a selective view into her life but, because of her age and because she is a child and because she's our daughter, we're very cautious about how big that view is," Reuben said.

He and Alison devote two to three hours daily to tweeting, checking and responding to MySpace and Facebook messages, and managing the YouTube account. They showed selected messages to Kaitlyn, who never goes on these sites.

"We try to show her more of the things about how music has inspired people, as opposed to things like 'You're the greatest singer in the world!' " Reuben said. "We have fans who think she walks on water.

"No one needs to hear that, especially at five years old."

Kaitlyn said she enjoys singing, acting, dancing, swimming, taking piano lessons and spending time with her little brother. "Most of all, I like being a princess and dressing up and wearing crowns," she added.

Kaitlyn, who is home-schooled, reads at the fourth-grade level and loves playing math and spelling games. She memorizes lyrics quickly, usually in about 15 minutes.

"I can't tell you how many thousands of times I've heard, 'Let her just be a kid,'" Reuben said. "But she pushes us."

In her basement, Kaitlyn practiced and performed several songs including "Daddy I Love You" from her upcoming CD, "You Were Meant to Be," scheduled for release in October.

Afterward, Kaitlyn and her dad were dueling with inflatable pink and blue balloon arms. The iPhones were nowhere in sight. Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and YouTube would not be updated this evening. This was family time.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***Culture of Corruption***, by Michelle Malkin (Regnery Publishing: $27.95) An investigation into alleged corruption in the Obama administration.
2. ***Outliers***, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99) An exploration of the background of high achievers.
3. ***Zeitoun***, by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's: $24) The disappearance of a Syrian American father and good Samaritan in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
4. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
5. ***Liberty and Tyranny***, by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: $25) The talk-radio personality's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.
6. ***Act Like a Lady***, Think Like a Man, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: $23.99) The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.
7. ***Golden Dreams***, by Kevin Starr (Oxford University Press: $34.95) A look at the pivotal postwar period in Southern California from 1950 to 1963.
8. ***The Evolution of God***, by Robert Wright (Little, Brown: $25.99) The origins of various religions and the gods they worship.
9. ***In the President's Secret Service***, by Ronald Kessler (Crown: $26) A behind-the-scenes look at the Secret Service and its agents.
10. ***Born to Run,*** by Christopher McDougall (Knopf: $24.95) An exploration of the Tarahumara Indians and their secrets of long-distance running.

Fiction

1. ***The White Queen***, by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone: $25.99) The wars of the Plantagenets, who ruled England before the Tudors, enmeshed with the mystery of the missing princes in the Tower of London.
2. ***South of Broad***, by Pat Conroy (Nan A. Talese: $29.95) A gossip columnist's homage to a close-knit group of friends from Charleston, S.C..
3. ***The Help***, by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: $24.95) The lives of a maid, a cook and a college graduate become intertwined while changing a Mississippi town.
4. ***The Girl Who Played With Fire***, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf: $25.95) A hacker, implicated in two murders, must revisit her past to prove her innocence.
5. ***Inherent Vice***, by Thomas Pynchon (Penguin Press: $27.95) Noir meets '60s Southern California groovy in a private eye's psychedelic quest.
6. ***That Old Cape Magic***, by Richard Russo (Knopf : $25.95) A Cape Cod wedding spurs a middle-age man to reflect on his past, marriage, family and what the future holds.
7. ***The Magicians***, by Lev Grossman (Viking: $26.95) A group of aspiring prestidigitators set out to save the enchanted land of Fillory.
8. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.
9. ***Alex Cross's Trial***, by James Patterson and Richard DiLallo (Little, Brown: $27.99) The title character's great uncle joins with a lawyer to fight racism and lynchings in a Southern town at the turn of the 20th century.
10. ***The Angel's Game***, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (Doubleday: $26.95) A novelist in 1920s Barcelona, Spain, takes a dangerous writing assignment.

In Loving Memory

†ALFONSO SAN NICOLAS REYES

October 22, 1936 - September 04, 2009

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Anunciacion Aquino Reyes

PARENTS: †Antonio T. & †Maria SN. Reyes
PARENTS-IN-LAW: Alfred F. & Rosalia A. Fleming
†Felipe Aquino

CHILDREN/IN-LAWS/GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILD:
Felipe & Nora Aquino (Noralynn, Kaisha, Janessa, Felesia, Hanika, Ina Bonita, Felipe Jr., Brandon)
Rodel & **Manuela Manlulu** (Alfred, Rodel Jr., Romar, Rosalia, Ronnie)
Rosalia Maria Reyes (Cecily Borja {*Aleecia Jade Borja Jones*})
Lovina A. Reyes
Peter & **Elaine Dela Cruz** (Pia Elayne, Peter II, Prestin Peter, Pevika)
Alfonso A. Reyes Jr. & Marian Dela Cruz (Ha'ani, DiaNoah, Aysha, Journey)
Anthony & Angela Reyes (Napu Anthony, Osi, Tano, Diseya, Inatua)
Joaquin & Velma Reyes
Alexandro Reyes & Joelyn Ariola (Winnisia A. Reyes)
Justin Fungkugub

BROTHERS / SISTERS / IN-LAWS:
†Mariano SN. & †Beatrice S. Reyes
†Joaquin SN. & †Izang Reyes
†Jose SN. & †Catalina Reyes
†Benvinido SN. & †Vicenta Reyes
†Prudencio SN. & Delgadina Reyes
Dionicio SN. & Rosa Reyes
†Estefania SN. & †Tobias Muna
†Remedio SN. & †Ignacio Dela Cruz
†Ursula SN. Reyes
†Maximina SN. Reyes & Edward Flores

Daily recitation of the Holy Rosary is being prayed at 8:00 p.m. at Tinian Health Center.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 7:30AM, his remains will leave Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian for Responso Service followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM. Interment follows immediately at Tinian Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Anunciacion Aquino Reyes
Children and Family

'Final Destination' keeps fans coming with $15.4M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie audiences are continuing to visit "The Final Destination" as the fright flick took in $15.4 million over the four-day Labor Day weekend to remain the No. 1 box-office draw, according to studio estimates Monday.

Released by Warner Bros., "The Final Destination" raised its 11-day total to $50.6 million.

Quentin Tarantino's World War II epic "Inglourious Basterds" ran a close second with $15 million from Friday to Monday. The Weinstein Co. tale lifted its total to $95.2 million in its third weekend.

Debuting at No. 3 with $13.9 million was 20th Century Fox's romantic comedy "All About Steve," starring Sandra Bullock on a cross-country trek pursuing the man of her dreams.

Among the weekend's other new releases was Lionsgate's thriller "Gamer," which pulled in $11.2 million to finish at No. 4. "Gamer" stars Gerard Butler in a tale about real humans controlled by players in deadly games.

Opening at No. 10 with $5.3 million was Miramax's comedy "Extract," starring Jason Bateman as a businessman whose personal life heats up just as he's trying to sell his flavor-extract company to General Mills.

The Labor Day weekend is traditionally a slow one at theaters, with audiences preoccupied by outdoor activities and a new school year. But with Hollywood fresh off a summer revenue record of $4.25 billion, theaters did solid business over the holiday, with receipts for the top-12 movies at $102.6 million, up 10.5 percent from Labor Day weekend last year, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

AP

From left, cast members Shantel VanSanten, Bobby Campo, Krista Allen, Haley Webb, and Nick Zano pose together at the premiere of "The Final Destination" in Los Angeles on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009.

1. "**The Final Destination**," $15.4 million.
2. "**Inglourious Basterds**," $15 million.
3. "**All About Steve**," $13.9 million.
4. "**Gamer**," $11.2 million.
5. "**District 9**," $9 million.
6. "**Halloween II**," $7.1 million.
7. "**Julie & Julia**," $7 million.
8. "**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra**," $6.7 million.
9. "**The Time Traveler's Wife**," $5.5 million.
10. "**Extract**," $5.3 million.

"It's been a huge summer," said Bert Livingston, 20th Century Fox distribution executive. "Especially when the economy has been the way it is, our business is thriving, because people want to escape and go and lose themselves for a couple of hours."

For the year, Hollywood revenues are running at a record pace of $7.4 billion, 7.8 percent ahead of 2008 ticket sales. Factoring in higher ticket prices, admissions for 2009 are up 4 percent compared to last year's, according to Hollywood.com.

"We couldn't be in a better position heading into the fall," said Paul Dergarabedian, Hollywood.com box-office analyst. "We've got momentum with us."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

In the middle of two jobs, Mario Lopez is grilled well done

By DENISE MARTIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Mario Lopez is still best known for playing the mulleted, spandex-wearing jock A.C. Slater on "Saved by the Bell." These days, he hosts both "Extra" and MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew."

Question: You're in the middle of two jobs. What are you up to at this moment?

Answer: I had to run back to do some emergency voice-over stuff. I am the voice of "Extra" as well. That video of Dr. Murray, Michael Jackson's doctor, just came in. That suddenly beat the lead story which was about the dude from "Grey's Anatomy"—what's his name?

Q: Eric Dane?

A: Eric Dane, yes. Eric Dane and that little naked video of him and his wife with a friend.

Q: That's right. Not a sex tape.

A: Well, so far!

Q: I'm loving "America's Best Dance Crew" this season. Lots of diversity.

A: It's an eclectic bunch, huh? Vogue Evolution (an all-gay dance crew) makes me smile. But I'm impressed by all of them. I think the girl crew, We Are Heroes, is great. I've been impressed by the last two seasons of girl groups. They've really been able to bring it. I'd like to see a female crew win.

Q: Let's talk about your own dance background. Long before "Dancing With the Stars," I remember some fancy footwork on "Kids Incorporated" and sometimes on "Saved by the Bell."

A: Wow, you're old school.

Q: Yes. When did you get into dancing?

A: My mom put me into a bunch of classes as a kid. That was one of my many activities. And then I took, like, a 20-year hiatus until I did "Dancing With the Stars." I've always liked to move and dance, whether in weddings or at a club, but I never took it serious or anything. I just did whatever my mom told me. And I was really small from when I was 4 to, like, 7.

Q: How did you get involved on "Dancing With the Stars" then?

A: It's my mom's favorite show.

Q: You are a mama's boy.

A: Yes, I succumbed to the pressure.

Q: I remember during your season that some people thought it was unfair that you were competing, having had a background in dance.

A: Yeah, I thought that was very flattering. I'm not a professional. I'm not. I pick up stuff quick.

Q: Still, how in the world did Emmitt Smith beat you?

A: The whole thing was fun. It's not like we were aspiring to be professionals or anything. At least, I wasn't.

Q: What is with the staying power of "Saved by the Bell"?

A: I couldn't tell you. Maybe the innocence of it? There was a little something for everyone even though it was for kids. You didn't have to think too much. It's not a "CSI" plot. Just innocent fun.

Q: I saw you on the cover of People magazine with the entire Bayside High gang. Why have none of you aged?

A: Aw, that's nice. I was their hot bachelor last year or whatever, the cover for that. They asked me then if I'd be interested in doing a reunion with the cast. I said, 'Yeah!' I had nothing but great memories. So they had it planned even a year before. They knew 2009 was the show's 20th anniversary.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Mario Lopez is still best known for playing the mulleted, spandex-wearing jock A.C. Slater on "Saved by the Bell." These days, he hosts both "Extra" and MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew."

Q: Were you counting down as well?

A: Yeah. Of course! I can count.

Q: Dustin Diamond, who played the nerdy Screech, was a no-show. Do you think being identified as Screech traumatized him for life? There's the sex tape, the wrestling, "Celebrity Fit Club."

A: I was disappointed. He should have been there. I don't keep in contact with him, but I never had any issues or problems. We always got along well. As for his (recent) activities, I guess you do what you gotta do, you know?

Q: What separates "Extra" from all the other entertainment news shows?

A: It's the next generation of these kind of shows, with our interactivity and social networking. It's really got a cool, younger, hipper feel, and it's not as salacious. I try to talk to people as a friend and not be too newsy or anchor-y. Or, you know, sound old.

Q: Do you help come up with the segments?

A: I'm constantly pitching stuff. Like I'm going to get a dog, and we've turned it into this whole thing about what kind of dog I should get. I'm getting tons of viewer suggestions, and celebs are really getting a kick out of it. I've gotten everything from a pit bull to a Chihuahua, a Jack Russell terrier. Viewers will vote, and we'll take it from there. They know I'm single, I work a lot, I travel, I'm active.

Q: That poor dog.

A: Yeah, I need something that can run around with me. An athletic, small, masculine little dog. I can't have a froufrou dog.

Chavez walks Venice red carpet with Oliver Stone

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez received a movie star welcome at the Venice Film Festival, where he walked the red carpet with director Oliver Stone for the premiere of the documentary "South of the Border."

Hundreds of admirers, some chanting "president, president," gathered outside of the Casino for the leader's arrival Monday. A few held up Venezuelan flags and a banner in Spanish that read "Welcome, president."

Chavez threw a flower into the crowd and touched his heart, and at one point took a photographer's camera to snap a picture himself. Security outside the Casino was tightened in advance of his arrival, with military police checking bags.

Chavez praised Stone's work for depicting what he said were improvements made across Latin America.

"Rebirth is happening in Latin America, and Stone went to look for it and he found it," Chavez told reporters. "With his cameras and his genius, he's captured a good part of that rebirth."

Stone says "South of the Border" is meant to illustrate "the sweeping changes" in South America in recent years as a direct counterpoint to what he sees as Chavez's depiction as a dictator by U.S. and European media.

Stone spent extensive time with Chavez for the 75-minute documentary, which is premiering at the Venice Film Festival on Monday, and also interviewed the leaders of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Cuba and Paraguay, whom Stone said "are on the same page" as Chavez.

"He's a guy you should meet and get to know. ... He's the star of the movie," Stone said in an interview before the premiere.

Stone said he wanted to illustrate changes that put in power in many South American countries' leaders who represent the majority of their populations, a movement exemplified by Chavez. He cited Bolivian President Evo Morales, the first Indian to be elected president, and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a well-known trade unionist.

"If you look now, there are seven presidents, eight countries with Chile, that are really moving away from the Washington consensus control," Stone said. "But in America, they don't get that story."

Stone was invited to Venezuela to meet Chavez for the first time during the Venezuelan leader's aborted rescue mission of Colombian hostages held by FARC rebels. Stone said the Chavez he met was different than some U.S. media depictions.

Damon plays 'Informant' in Soderbergh film

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Matt Damon plays a pathological liar in Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant!"—the true-life story of an agribusiness executive who blows the whistle on his company's price fixing schemes with international competitors.

Soderbergh said Monday at the Venice Film Festival, where his comedy is showing out of competition, that lying plays an important function in life—as long as the lies don't get out of hand.

"I think lying is very important and necessary. It does take a lot of energy. It is one of the ways I stay thin," Soderbergh told reporters.

Damon didn't have that luxury for the role of Mark Whitacre, an Archer Daniels Midland executive who exposed the price fixing-scandal while covering up his own million-dollar path of extortion. He had to both lie, a lot, and put on 30 pounds (14 kilograms) for the role.

"It was very, very easy to gain the weight. Very, very fun," Damon said. "I just basically ate everything I could see for a few months."

AP

US director Steven Soderbergh, left, and US actor Matt Damon arrive for the press conference for the film ' The Informant ' at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

Soderbergh first talked to Damon about doing the role seven years ago. They did three other movies in the meantime.

In Soderbergh's words: "Seven years of foreplay and then a quickie."

"Steven's theory on comedy is you make sure the screenplay is perfect, and then you shoot the actual production really, really fast," Damon said. "So that is what we did. We stewed on the script for seven years, and then shot this film in 30-something days."

At up to eight pages a day, Damon said the pace was close to a television schedule.

Soderbergh said he purposely did not meet the real Mark Whitacre before filming—in contrast to "Erin Brockovich" and his two films about revolutionary Che Guevara, for which he tried to meet everyone involved in the real story that he could.

"The strange thing is, that Whitacre has seen the film and has said it was very accurate," Soderbergh said. "Maybe on 'Che' and 'Erin,' I was wasting my time."

Aliens, zombies try to break 'Thriller' record

ATLANTA (AP)—It wasn't under the moonlight, and it wasn't quite the funk of 40,000 years. But 900 zombies, aliens and Star Wars Stormtroopers boogeying to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" might be a sight that almost stops your heart.

The masquerade of sci-fi faithful performed Michael Jackson's signature "Thriller" music video dance routine on Sunday, according to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. And if officials approve, they will have set a new Guinness World Record.

The crowd turned out in a downtown Atlanta hotel ballroom during Dragon Con, which is billed as the country's largest convention dedicated to science fiction, fantasy, gaming, comics and more.

The iconic video played on a huge video screen as a Jackson lookalike channeled the pop star in red jeans, a red leather jacket, and white socks and black penny loafers.

The current record was set in May by a group of 242 College of William & Mary students who performed the routine in Williamsburg, Virginia, according to Guinness World Records.

Dragon Con special events director Mandy Collier expects a decision this week on whether a record was set.

More than 12,000 people claimed they broke the record in front of Mexico City's Monument of the Revolution on Aug. 29, which would have been Jackson's 51st birthday.

However, the record was not accepted by Guinness.

Tyra goes back to her (hair) roots on TV talk show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tyra Banks is getting back to her roots for the season debut of her TV talk show, and she doesn't mean that as a figure of speech.

On Tuesday's fifth-season premiere of "The Tyra Show" on the CW network, the former supermodel goes on-camera with unadorned hair. Or as Banks puts it, "no wigs, extensions, no nothing."

"It's just me coming straight out of the shower with wet hair. My hairdresser's going to do my hair live on stage," said Banks, who will interview women with insecurities about their own tresses.

She aims to reassure them about how attractive their hair is naturally and "ask them to be brave enough to show it to everybody on national television," Banks said.

It's part of her mission to help redefine the emotional issue of beauty for women, both within and without, she said.

"The Tyra Show"—the title now uses only her first name—last week won a Daytime Emmy Award in the talk show-informative category. It moves from syndication to the CW network this season, airing 4 p.m. EDT weekdays.

AP

In this Aug. 30, 2009 file photo, Tyra Banks holds the award for outstanding talk show informative backstage at the Daytime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Banks said she's learned from past shows, especially when it comes to trusting the insights she developed in the fashion industry.

"It's more honest. There's nothing worse than sitting there and pretending" ignorance while a guest delivers tips she could share herself, Banks said.

Models used to queue for her makeup skills at Paris fashion shows, she said. And when it comes to clothing, "I'm going to be telling you how to make that sweater into a skirt. And into a skort. And into a dress. I know how to do that."

Banks also will be front and center for the new run of her series "America's Next Top Model," which debuts with a two-hour episode at 8 p.m. EDT Wednesday on CW. This time around, women who are 5-foot-7 and under—generally scorned as short by the fashion industry—make up the field of contestants.

"I feel like it's my calling to open up stereotypes of beauty," whether in life or on the runway, said Banks.

MDA Telethon raises nearly $60.5M despite economy

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Despite the tough economy, officials with the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon say contributions and pledges from this year's Labor Day event totaled nearly $60.5 million.

Officials say the funds will allow the Muscular Dystrophy Association to continue funding worldwide research to find treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy and related diseases.

Lewis, the Tucson-based MDA's national chairman, thanked the American people for their generosity Monday.

He says that even though the total was down from last year's record $65 million, it was an amazing accomplishment considering the state of the nation's economy.

The 44th annual telethon originated for the fourth consecutive year from the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa in Las Vegas.

Dallas suburb buying house where Oswald kept rifle

IRVING, Texas (AP)—A Dallas suburb has agreed to pay $175,000 for the house where Lee Harvey Oswald stored the rifle used to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

The Dallas Morning News reported Monday that the sum the Irving City Council agreed to pay is far more than the $84,000 value the Dallas Central Appraisal District lists for the property.

But Mayor Herbert Gears told the newspaper it's worth it because the house is a piece of history. The city has not yet decided what to do with the house.

It once belonged to Ruth Paine, who hosted Oswald's estranged wife, Marina, in the months before Kennedy's death in Dallas in November 1963. Unbeknownst to Paine, Lee Harvey Oswald stored a gun in the garage and picked it up the night before the assassination.

Hurt caused by old flame still burns 26 years later

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I started my freshman year of college, I was a loner. I had low self-esteem, the result of a disability I was born with.

On the first day of school I noticed "Will," who was also a freshman. I thought he was cute. He was easy to talk to, and we hit it off instantly. We became inseparable, often visiting each other's families on weekends and breaks.

At the end of the first semester—out of the blue—he called me a "b-tch" and told me to get out of his life. I was crushed! He left school shortly afterward without saying goodbye.

Later I was given some shocking news. His roommate told me that Will was gay. I went through the gamut of emotions from disbelief to anger to sadness. And I felt used.

Twenty-six years have passed. I answered the phone at work two days ago and was surprised to hear Will's voice on the other end. He was shocked, too. I asked if he remembered me and he said he did. He came into the store several days later, and we exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses. I looked at his Web pages and saw pictures of him holding and kissing men the way he used to hold and kiss me.

They say you never forget your first, and I haven't. The problem is, I still feel hurt. I want him to know that, but I don't know what to do. Am I making too much of this?

"GRACE" IN NEW YORK

DEAR "GRACE": No, I don't think so. Your relationship with Will ended without closure, so your hurt is understandable. Give Will a call and invite him to join you for lunch. Tell him you were deeply hurt all those years ago, and then ask him to explain why he treated you the way he did and what happened after he left the school. Don't be surprised if he tells you he loved you, too, and that he tried to be straight but simply could not be who you wanted him to be. Sometimes that happens.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away a year and a half ago. My parents were married 50 years. Dad is now 76 and recently started "seeing someone." While my sisters and I weren't thrilled about it, we never said anything negative about her to him.

A few weeks ago he found it necessary to include this woman in our weekly visit to our mother's grave. We told him if he wants to go there with her—fine. But do not drag her there with us. This was our private time with our mother. We didn't want a stranger there.

The end result was they broke up. Now Dad is blaming it all on us. The breakup is a secondary issue. What are your thoughts about his insisting she be a part of the cemetery visits?

GRAVELY CONCERNED IN OHIO

DEAR GRAVELY CONCERNED: Frankly, I am surprised that the woman would want to be included in the weekly visits to your mother's grave. However, before she accepted the invitation, she should have made sure that her presence wasn't an imposition by asking your father if it had been cleared with you. As to the "secondary issue"—I suspect there was more behind the breakup than you have been led to believe.

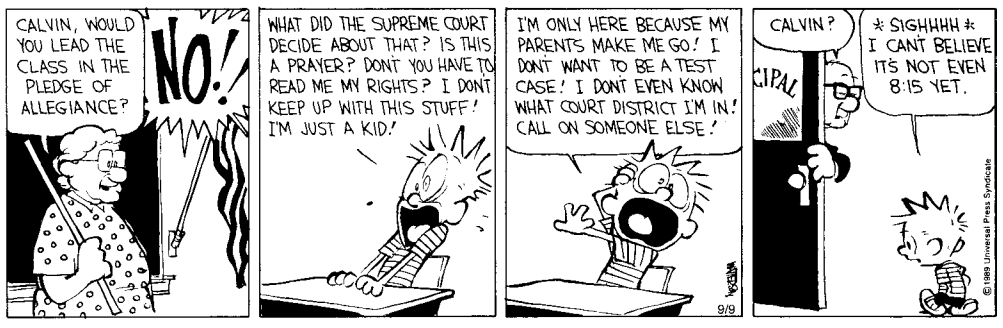
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, WOULD YOU LEAD THE CLASS IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?
NO!
WHAT DID THE SUPREME COURT DECIDE ABOUT THAT? IS THIS A PRAYER? DON'T YOU HAVE TO READ ME MY RIGHTS? I DON'T KEEP UP WITH THIS STUFF! I'M JUST A KID!
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE MY PARENTS MAKE ME GO! I DON'T WANT TO BE A TEST CASE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT COURT DISTRICT I'M IN! CALL ON SOMEONE ELSE!
9/9
CALVIN?
CIPAL
* SIGHHHH * I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT EVEN 8:15 YET.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU KNOW, AS A VET I CAN TELL YOU THAT CATS SHOULDN'T REALLY DRINK COFFEE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
www.garfield.com
YOU'RE FUNNY
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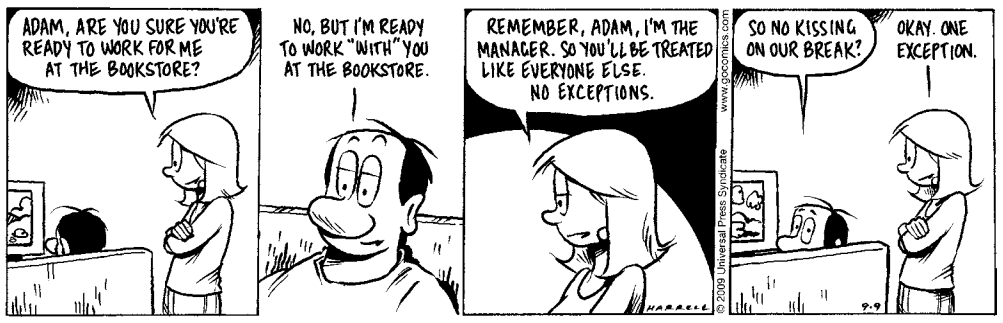
JIM DAVIS 9-9

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO WORK FOR ME AT THE BOOKSTORE?
NO, BUT I'M READY TO WORK "WITH" YOU AT THE BOOKSTORE.
REMEMBER, ADAM, I'M THE MANAGER. SO YOU'LL BE TREATED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. NO EXCEPTIONS.
SO NO KISSING ON OUR BREAK?
OKAY. ONE EXCEPTION.
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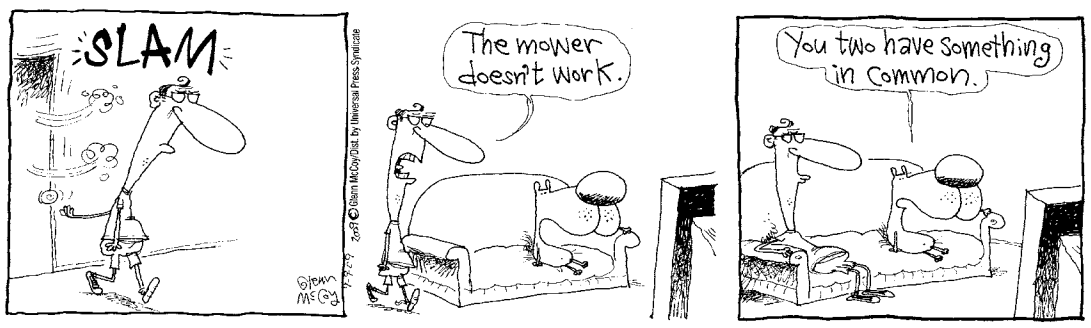
9-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

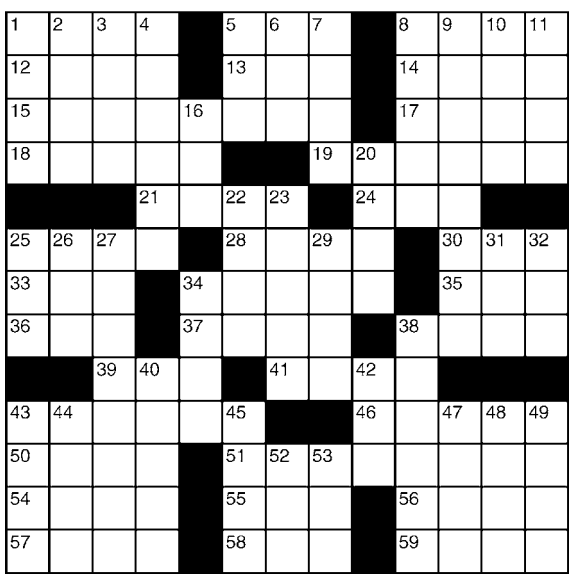
ACROSS
1 Crease
5 Pro-sciutto, e.g.
8 Get bigger
12 Petri dish stuff
13 G-8 member
14 Hayseed
15 Ignorant
17 On
18 Rush-more face
19 Potpourri pouch
21 Paraphernalia
24 12-Across, e.g.
25 Wee bit
28 Inlet
30 Computer key
33 Luau bowlful
34 Done
35 Knight's address
36 Drone
37 Ante-lope's playmate
38 Catch sight of
39 Early bird?
41 Do what I say
43 Billfold
46 Gun the engine
50 Neighbor-hood
51 Bald
54 Platter
55 Einstein's birthplace
56 Enrages
57 Facility
58 Petrol
59 Pub missile

DOWN
1 Datum
2 Leer at
3 Praise to the skies
4 Flour-coat
5 This and 32-Down are a big fuss
6 Donkey
7 Church service
8 Dinner-time prayer
9 Cruel
10 Reed instru-ment
11 Sobbed
16 Caustic solution
20 On in years
22 Teen's woe
23 Wild West show
25 Speed-ometer stat
26 Debtor's letters
27 Eternal
29 Trick or treat?
31 Try the tea
32 5-Down's partner
34 Advan-tage
38 Pupil's cover
40 Candied
42 Mess up
43 Test the waters
44 Met melody
45 Hoodlum
47 Miles of movies
48 Addict
49 "Hey, you!"
52 Carte lead-in
53 They're faster than e-mails

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	U	E	■	A	G	A	■	D	O	S	E
E	A	S	T	■	N	U	B	■	A	V	E	R
B	R	A	C	K	E	T	S	■	M	E	G	A
■	■	■	H	E	W	■	T	I	A	R	A	S
H	A	V	E	N	■	B	A	N	S	■	■	■
E	L	I	S	■	B	R	I	C	K	B	A	T
R	A	N	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	O	R	E
B	R	E	A	K	E	R	S	■	R	A	G	S
■	■	■	B	I	A	S	■	T	A	R	O	T
D	E	M	A	N	D	■	C	O	N	■	■	■
E	P	I	C	■	B	R	O	O	K	L	Y	N
P	E	R	U	■	O	U	R	■	L	I	E	U
T	E	E	S	■	X	E	D	■	E	T	A	S

Yesterday's answer 9-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 29; Henry Thomas, 38; Adam Sandler, 43; Hugh Grant, 49

Happy Birthday: If you are unwilling to make a few concessions or sacrifices, you will lose out. This is a time to experience, experiment and exercise your will to make things happen, regardless of the obstacles you face. Your will and determination will bring you success and freedom in the future. Your numbers are 9, 11, 16, 18, 24, 36, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Finances will be an issue that must be dealt with quickly and efficiently. Whether it's your desire to buy a high-ticket item or to pay off debts that are causing you stress, a good place to start is with a strict budget. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let someone who doesn't have your best interests at heart influence you. A problem with a friend, lover or child in your life will escalate if you make the wrong choices. Focus on getting ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a wait-and-see attitude. If you make premature changes, you will have regrets. Put your time and effort into your personal and family life. Please the ones you love. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a look around you and decide what you can do to make your home life better. A space for entertaining or meeting with colleagues will help broaden some of your current relationships. Working from home may become an option. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Strike back if someone is putting pressure on you to do things you don't feel good about doing. You have to live within your means if you want to feel comfortable about your future. An emotional issue is likely to disrupt your work. Stay calm. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your eyes and ears open and you will discover important information to help you make a decision about your work situation. A long-distance partnership can bring you greater recognition. Get the facts you need. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get what needs to be taken care of out of the way and you will avoid being criticized. Budget wisely. Romance can be yours if you get involved with a group that interests you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your suspicious nature will lead to questioning the people you have to deal with about matters that concern your personal life, home and family. There is no point in moving forward with anyone you don't feel completely comfortable with. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you don't mean it, don't say it. You'll be requested to follow through and, if you don't deliver, your reputation will be damaged. Alterations at home will be emotionally tough to deal with if you don't act calmly and quickly. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will get your way if you put a little pressure on a situation involving a contract, payments or changes to your home or property. You mustn't let someone you love get away with something or disrupt your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have to do your best and try your hardest. Someone will complain if you are too emotional or you decide not to maintain the type of connection you have shared in the past. Protect your possessions and your cash. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look at an old partnership from a new angle. What might not have worked in the past may work now with a couple of alterations. Discuss the possibilities and you should be able to restructure an old project so it works for everyone. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have strength and courage and will make a difference to a cause you believe in. You are interested in learning and applying what you know.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					3	5	6	
				7				
	4	5	9		8	3	7	
8	6			2			9	3
7								5
1								2
3								8
	9						5	
		6	4	8	9	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	5	6	1	3	7	9	4
1	3	4	7	9	5	6	2	8
6	9	7	2	8	4	5	1	3
2	4	6	3	7	8	1	5	9
7	5	3	9	4	1	2	8	6
9	1	8	5	6	2	3	4	7
3	8	9	1	5	6	4	7	2
5	7	2	4	3	9	8	6	1
4	6	1	8	2	7	9	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TETRIS TURNS 25! **Solution: 8 letters**

H	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S	O	V	I	E	T
Y	E	L	L	O	W	R	E	C	O	R	D	S	N	Y
C	N	L	O	L	S	T	O	P	S	A	I	E	P	M
Y	E	I	C	I	A	C	N	R	M	D	S	L	O	E
A	E	F	K	N	T	T	O	A	E	S	A	D	R	D
N	R	V	I	E	R	L	N	W	E	T	P	(S)	D	A
I	G	O	N	S	O	I	A	O	F	H	P	(N)	R	C
P	R	N	G	C	P	Y	N	O	Z	E	E	(A)	A	A
S	A	I	E	U	S	I	R	E	E	I	A	(P)	H	T
Y	V	J	L	L	M	M	O	D	E	B	R	O	W	N
S	I	A	O	O	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	O	R	E
A	T	P	R	E	P	U	S	I	N	G	L	E	H	G
E	Y	T	F	O	S	M	H	T	I	R	O	G	L	A
R	E	D	A	C	S	A	C	D	X	I	R	T	A	M
T	A	C	T	I	C	S	K	C	A	T	S	O	L	D

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Academy, Algorithm, Brown, Cascade, Colors, Computers, Cyan, Disappear, Drop, Easyspin, Fill, Gravity, Green, Hard, Horizontal, Lines, Locking, Magenta, Manipulate, Matrix, Mode, Moscow, Pajinov, Platforms, Records, Red, Role, Rotation, Sent, Sideways, Single, Snap, Soft, Sold, Soviet, Speed, Sport, Spots, Stacks, Super, Tactics, Tetrominoes, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Morning

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 per for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EE E EXIT

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Find today's solution in this section

"I want to meet Snow White!"

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HILL LAW OFFICES
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FAX: 670/ 234-7753

Attorney for Plaintiff
Royal Crown Insurance Corporation

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROYAL CROWN INSURANCE CORPORATION, *Plaintiff,*	**Civil Action No. 08-0411-CV**
vs.	**SUMMONS**
GREENSTONE INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., and dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, DOROTHY P. CANILLO, ANGEL P. DERAY, SR., and MANUEL M. BANGAYAN, jointly and severally, *Defendants.*	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiffs counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:

Dated this 31st day of October, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

US teen Oudin knocks off another seed

NEW YORK (AP)—When Melanie Oudin wakes up each morning these days, sharing a king-sized hotel bed with her mother, she's basically your average teen visiting the big city.

Then the 17-year-old from Marietta, Ga., gets out on court at the U.S. Open in those pink-and-yellow sneakers with the word "BELIEVE" stamped near the heel, and there is nothing ordinary at all about her.

No higher-ranked or more-accomplished opponent is too intimidating. No deficit is too daunting.

Yes, the comeback kid did it again Monday.

Five points from a straight-set loss, Oudin kept plugging away with her perpetual-motion defense and pick-her-spots offense for a 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3 victory over 13th-seeded Nadia Petrova to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

"It's kind of hard to explain how I've done it," Oudin said. "It's, like, now I know that I do belong here. This is what I want to do, and I can compete with these girls, no matter who I'm playing. I have a chance against anyone."

Can't argue with that. The upset of Petrova follows comebacks from a set down against three-time major champion Maria Sharapova in the third round, and No. 4 Elena Dementieva—a two-time Grand Slam finalist and Beijing Olympics gold medalist—in the second.

"I don't actually mean to lose the first set," explained a smiling Oudin, 17-4 this season in three-setters. "I sometimes just start off slowly, I guess. Maybe I'm a little nervous."

The first major quarterfinal of her nascent career will come against No. 9 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, who added to the stream of upsets in the women's tournament by knocking off two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 2-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3).

Asked about facing Oudin, Wozniacki said: "She's had an amazing run. Hopefully someone from the crowd will cheer for me."

Oudin is the story of the tournament so far, already drawing comparisons to Tracy Austin (a U.S. Open champion at 16) and Chris Evert (a semifinalist at 17), and giving U.S. tennis fans hope that there is someone coming up in the women's game behind the Williams sisters.

"This is going to do a lot," Oudin said. "I think it's good for American tennis."

Things are different for the U.S. men: None of the 18 who entered the tournament is left, after 55th-ranked John Isner of Tampa, Fla., lost to No. 10 Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. It's the first time in the history of an event that began in 1881 that there will be no American men in the quarterfinals.

"I knew that," Isner said. "I wanted to keep it going."

Verdasco, from Spain, will play fourth-seeded Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the quarterfinals, after Djokovic's 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 rout over 15th-seeded Radek Stepanek late Monday.

And Switzerland, of course, has its representative in the final eight: No. 1 Roger Federer extended his pursuit of a sixth consecutive U.S. Open title by beating No. 14 Tommy Robredo 7-5, 6-2, 6-2. Up next is a familiar foe: No. 12 Robin Soderling of Sweden, who is 0-11 against Federer, including losses this year in the French Open final and Wimbledon's fourth round.

The woman who eliminated No. 1 Dinara Safina, Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, couldn't build on that, losing in three sets to Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium, while Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine shut out Gisela Dulko of Argentina 6-0, 6-0.

Like Oudin and Wozniacki, Wickmayer and Bondarenko are first-time Grand Slam quarterfinalists.

This is all so new in so many ways for Oudin, whose twin sister Katherine was bawling in the stands at match's end.

A year ago, Oudin—it's pronounced "oo-DAN"—was ranked 221st and lost in the first round at the U.S. Open. She never had won a Grand Slam match until June, when she knocked off former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic en route to Wimbledon's fourth round—after losing the first set, naturally.

My, how her life is about to change. Starting to change already, actually.

After beating Petrova, Oudin huddled with her coach, Brian de Villiers, trying to figure out how to squeeze in various media obligations with necessary tasks such as eating something and getting treatment for her heavily wrapped left thigh.

Endorsement offers are coming in. Now recognized by strangers, Oudin needs security guards to help her navigate the crowds on her way to the Open's practice courts. Walking through the lobby of her New York hotel is an adventure. There even was a bit of a skirmish among paparazzi when she was in Times Square the other day.

"That was her first realization that she's big-time, that it is going to be scary sometimes," Katherine said. "I'm surprised that she's held it together as well as she has."

On the court, the situation seemed bleak when Petrova, already up a set, was serving at 4-3, 40-15 in the second. One more point, and Petrova would be a game from the win. But Petrova netted a forehand for 40-30, and on the next point, Oudin blocked back a 112 mph serve, then ended an 10-stroke exchange by smacking a forehand down the line.

"Unbelievable winner," said Petrova, who would never again be that close to victory.

"Winning that game kind of gave her a second breath," Petrova said. "She realized, 'OK, I'm back in the game.' And probably after winning previous matches pretty much in the same way, she thought, 'You know, I can do it again.'"

Precisely right.

Forced to hit extra shots because of the 5-foot-6 Oudin's ability to track down balls and sling them back, Petrova began to make more and more mistakes. During one key stretch early in the third set, Oudin won 11 of 13 points—and 10 were thanks to miscues by Petrova.

"She's on a roll. And she has nothing to lose," said Petrova, the fourth Russian in a row Oudin has beaten. "She goes, enjoys it, crowd is behind her. She's just having a blast out there."

Sure is.

"This," Oudin said, "is what I've wanted forever."

Not that forever is all that long in her case. She is, after all, "just 17"—as the lyrics go in the Beatles song reverberating through the Arthur Ashe Stadium sound system after her victories there.

Melanie and Katherine began hitting tennis balls out of a bucket with their grandmother at age 7, then began working with de Villiers at age 9. At about 12, though, Melanie decided she wanted to be home-schooled, so she could focus squarely on tennis. Katherine, meanwhile, plays in national junior tournaments, but has other interests, and is now a senior in high school.

As little kids, the sisters would play matches on a makeshift court, piling up jackets in their home's cul de sac to serve as a net until Mom or Dad said it was too dark to be outside.

They never pretended, though, that they were at Flushing Meadows or the All England Club. Those places seemed too far away at the time.

"It's not like we were saying, 'Oh, we're going to be there one day,'" Katherine said. "But Melanie's just always believed in herself. It's amazing."

AP

Melanie Oudin of the United States reacts after her 1-6, 7-6(2), 6-3 upset victory over Nadia Petrova of Russia at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

NFL BRIEFS

Chargers LB says he didn't harm reality TV star

SAN DIEGO (AP)—San Diego Chargers star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman said he did not harm reality TV star Tila Tequila at his home early Sunday and added he was concerned for her safety because she appeared to be intoxicated. Merriman was arrested and accused of choking and throwing Tequila to the ground as she tried to leave his home in suburban Poway. Tequila signed a citizen's arrest warrant charging Merriman with battery and false imprisonment. Both are felonies. Merriman spent about 2 1/2 hours in the downtown jail before posting bail. Merriman practiced Monday, then said he's convinced he'll be cleared. It will ultimately be up to the District Attorney's office to decide if he'll be charged. "I think when it all surfaces, it will be a different situation. Period," said Merriman, who described Tequila as an acquaintance.

Lions choose Stafford as starter

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Matthew Stafford won the Lions' quarterback derby. Daunte Culpepper didn't lose the job. That's what Detroit's new coach, Jim Schwartz, emphasized Monday when he made the No. 1 overall draft pick the starter for Sunday in New Orleans, when the Lions try to win for the first time in 21 months. "I've had a lot of very tough decisions in the last few days—guys making the 53-man roster or not making it—but none more difficult than at quarterback," he said. "We announced to our team this morning that Matt Stafford is going to be our starting quarterback." Schwartz felt Stafford and Culpepper played well in training camp and the preseason, as did third-stringer Drew Stanton before sustaining a knee injury. "I'm very, very comfortable with the quarterback position here, not just one and two, but also three," Schwartz said. "What made this decision difficult was that I think we can win with Daunte Culpepper, I think we can with Matt Stafford, and I think we can win with Drew Stanton."

Mangini keeping Browns starting QB a secret

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Brady Quinn and Derek Anderson still don't know who won their competition. The Vikings are in the dark, too. Cleveland's starting quarterback remains Eric Mangini's secret. And he'll keep it as long as he can. Mangini has finally made his choice between Quinn and Anderson, but the Browns' first-year coach declined to identify who will start Sunday's season opener against Minnesota. On Monday, he said won't reveal who will open at QB anytime between now and kickoff. "In terms of announcing it publicly, that's not something I plan to do," he said. "It will be internal. I understand everybody has a different opinion on it. I respect that. I understand the excitement in relationship to that and I respect that as well. But that will be something that will be internal." Before practice, Mangini said he had not yet told the quarterbacks who won the job and that he plans to meet with them individually to discuss his decision. Months of speculation will last at least a few more days. Both Quinn and Anderson claimed ignorance about a topic that dominated Cleveland's training camp and exhibition season.

Buehrle gets first win since perfect game

CHICAGO (AP)—Mark Buehrle won for the first time since pitching a perfect game on July 23, ending his eight-start drought by leading the Chicago White Sox over the Boston Red Sox 5-1 in the American League on Monday.

Carlos Quentin homered as Chicago took three of four from the AL wild-card leaders.

Buehrle (12-7) outpitched Josh Beckett (14-6), scattering eight hits over seven-plus innings. The White Sox lefty had been 0-4 with a 5.44 ERA since his gem against Tampa Bay.

Buehrle gave up a first-inning run and then pitched his way out of several jams. Leading 3-1, he gave up a leadoff single to Victor Martinez in the eighth and was replaced by Tony Pena, who struck out Jason Bay and Mike Lowell.

AP

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Mark Buehrle receives an ovation after being pulled in the eighth inning during a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox in Chicago, Monday, Sept. 7, 2009. Chicago won 5-1.

Royals 6, Angels 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler homered twice and had four RBIs as Kansas City ended a nine-game losing streak to the Los Angeles Angels.

Kansas City played solid defense, had 11 hits and survived a scare from its shaky bullpen to beat Los Angeles for the first time since May 7, 2008. Butler hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning off Ervin Santana (7-8) and a solo shot off Jose Arredondo in the eighth for his second multihomer game this season.

Yankees 4, Rays 1, 1st game
Yankees 11, Rays 1, 2nd game

At New York, Derek Jeter went hitless with a walk from eight at bats to remain three hits behind club record-holder Lou Gehrig as New York swept a day-night doubleheader from Tampa Bay.

After a sparkling pitcher's duel between CC Sabathia and Matt Garza in the opener, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in a three-run eighth inning. Mark Teixeira hit a three-run homer in an eight-run third that broke open the second game and added a solo shot, boosting A.J. Burnett (11-8) to his first win since July 27.

Twins 6, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, major league batting leader Joe Mauer got three more hits and keyed a five-run first inning as Minnesota downed Toronto.

Jason Kubel doubled twice for the Twins, who snapped a seven-game losing streak in Toronto. The Blue Jays have lost 11 of 15.

The Twins wound up using five relievers. Jesse Crain (5-4) worked 1 1-3 innings and Joe Nathan closed it out in the ninth for his 37th save in 42 chances.

Cubs 4, Pirates 2

At Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Pirates were assured of a record-breaking 17th straight losing season in the American League, falling to the Chicago Cubs on Derrek Lee's two homers.

By losing their 10th in 11 games, the Pirates dropped to 54 wins and 82 losses and will finish below .500, just as they have every season since 1993. The string of losing seasons is the longest for any team in the four major North American pro team sports. Only the Phillies (1933-1948) have had as many as 16 losing seasons in a row.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 0

At Milwaukee, Chris Carpenter pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a clean double to Jody Gerut in the fifth inning, and struck out 10 as St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Carpenter (16-3) won his 11th straight decision and leads the majors with a 2.16 ERA. He needed 99 pitches to throw his first shutout in three years, and allowed just two balls out of the infield.

Albert Pujols hit a two-run double in the fifth, then doubled again and scored in the seventh. Dave Bush (3-7) has lost seven consecutive decisions over his last nine starts dating to May 13.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Manny Ramirez hit his 17th home run of the season before being ejected and late-season acquisitions Vicente Padilla and Ronnie Belliard helped Los Angeles beat Arizona.

Chris Young homered for Arizona, a day after hitting three at Colorado. The Diamondbacks lost their fifth in a row.

Ramirez hit a solo homer in the second inning off Max Scherzer (9-9) but was tossed after flinging his bat and helmet to the ground near home plate after striking out to end the third.

Giants 9, Padres 4

At San Francesco, Brad Penny dazzled in his home debut and Juan Uribe homered twice, tripled and drove in five runs as San Francisco beat San Diego.

Uribe and Edgar Renteria hit back-to-back home runs, helping the Giants remain two games behind Colorado in the NL wild-card race.

Penny (2-0) didn't give up a hit until Will Venable's triple leading off the fifth inning. He struck out six and walked one in seven innings. Penny won at Philadelphia on Wednesday, two days after he signed with the Giants following his release by Boston.

Rockies 4, Reds 3

At Denver, Ian Stewart broke a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, lifting Colorado over Cincinnati to end the Reds' seven-game winning streak.

The NL wild card-leading Rockies won their fourth in a row despite losing Troy Tulowitzki. The smooth-fielding shortstop left in the seventh after an RBI single because of a strained lower back and was listed as day-to-day.

Astros 4, Phillies 3

At Houston, Hunter Pence homered and drove in three runs as Houston completed a four-game sweep of NL East-leading Philadelphia.

Pence hit a two-run homer and an RBI double for the Astros, who've won eight of their last nine home games. Michael Bourn drew a bases-loaded walk from Chan Ho Park (3-3) to force home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning.

Playoff leader Stricker becoming 'Mr. September'

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Steve Stricker laughed off the suggestion that he is golf's Mr. September—the player who's flourished the most in the PGA Tour playoffs.

Then he went out and won the Deutsche Bank Championship—his second victory and sixth top 10 in 10 FedEx Cup events. No one has more wins, more top 10 finishes, or more rounds in the 60s in the playoffs in the 2 1/2 years since the tour conceived the end of the year points race.

Not even Tiger Woods.

"We're taking up space in his world," Stricker said on Monday after shooting a 4-under 67 to win at TPC of Boston and take over the top spot in the FedEx Cup standings. "We all know who the guy is out here. I'm just happy to be in the position I'm at and with the opportunity to do something special for myself. He's done enough other special things, maybe let somebody else do something special."

The tour created the playoff system—and its $10 million bonus—in 2007, hoping to copy the cachet of the tournaments that team sports have long used to crown a champion. It may not be as celebrated as winning a major (or even leading the money list), but whatever challenge the points race has posed, Stricker has responded.

He won The Barclays in 2007 and finished second to Woods in the FedEx Cup that year. Last year, when Woods was recovering from a knee injury, Stricker finished 14th. With a second place finish at The Barclays last week and a victory in Boston, Stricker took over first place in this year's standings, 909 points ahead of Woods.

Because the points are reset after the BMW Championship in Chicago, Stricker is assured of being no worse than the No. 2 seed in the season-ending Tour Championship.

"My goal coming into these first three events was just to make sure that I played well and remained in the top five so I could have a chance to win it all," Stricker said. "I think this pretty much does it. But we've still got a lot of golf left to play. ... I've still got to play well."

With a FedEx Cup title, Stricker could even make a case for Player of the Year.

Of course, Woods has a tidy little argument as well.

He's won five times this year, to three for Stricker. Woods has won more than $8 million, to Stricker's $6 million. Woods failed to win a major this year, but Stricker has never won one. And Woods is still No. 1 in the world, though Stricker moved up to No. 2 with his victory on Monday.

But over the first 2 1/2 years of the FedEx Cup, Stricker's playoff performance compares with anyone.

His six top 10 playoff finishes is tied for the most with Camilo Villegas. Stricker is one of three golfers, along with Jim Furyk and Sergio Garcia, who has played in all 40 playoff rounds. And Stricker's 28 playoff rounds in the 60s is the most of anyone.

"We all know what he's about and how great a player (Woods) is, but this format adds a lot of excitement, you know, for a guy like myself or anybody else to kind of challenge him," Stricker said. "Whoever is going to win this, whether it be him or me or anybody else, I mean, you're going to have to play some pretty good golf for two more events, and it's going to lead to a lot of excitement for the fans, the media and the players alike.

"I think it's a lot of fun."

Stricker had his share of fun at the Deutsche Bank, sharing the lead after one round and again after three, then climbing to the top for good with back-to-back birdies on the last two holes. He finished at 17-under 267 for his seventh career victory—his first with Woods in the field—and a $1.35 million check.

For a guy who blew a chance at a playoff at The Barclays last week when he missed a 10-foot par putt on the 18th hole, it was a quick turnaround.

"I don't even remember last week," Stricker said with a laugh before coming clean. "Last week was disappointing. I tried to blow it off and tried to say, 'You know what, I've had a good year, don't worry about it.' But a couple days went by and I was still thinking about it.

"But that's the great thing about what we do for a living. We're able to come right back out here, we have a new week, new tournament to play for, and I was able to forget about that."

Grizzlies owner meets with Allen Iverson

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The owner of the Memphis Grizzlies and the team's staff met with Allen Iverson on Monday, moving closer to a deal bringing the veteran guard to a young team.

"I want to help them develop a winner," Iverson said on Twitter on Sunday night.

The meeting was in Atlanta, where the 34-year-old star has been working out recently with former teammate Eric Snow. The Grizzlies confirmed the meeting but declined to comment further.

The Grizzlies last season finished 24-58, last in their division. No other NBA team has shown public interest in Iverson.

The Commercial Appeal newspaper reported that the Grizzlies have offered the 13-year veteran a one-year contract worth at least $3.5 million. The deal could increase to $4.4 million if Memphis renounces its rights to guard Juan Carlos Navaro of Spain.

PIC resets Hotel Olympics for a Cause

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club has rescheduled the inaugural 2009 Hotel Olympics for a Cause from this next weekend to November.

PIC assistant restaurant manager Rommell Bartolo, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said they decided to push back the Hotel Olympics to give participants more time to prepare.

"We met with representatives of various hotels last week and most of them had expressed an interest in participating in the Hotel Olympics. However, this month and until late October, their staff and officials will be very busy with various functions in their respective hotels. They requested to reschedule the event and we are willing to do so to accommodate those interested to join us in this worthy cause," Bartolo said.

The 2009 Hotel Olympics was originally set for Sept. 18 and 19. It will feature four sports, namely bike relay, basketball, beach volleyball, and dodgeball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PIC's Raymond Tolentino is seen here getting ready to start the bike portion of a local triathlon event early this year. Bike relay will be one of the four featured sports in the 2009 Hotel Olympics for a Cause set for November.

All 11 hotels in the CNMI were invited to send teams in the two-day event. They are Hyatt Regency Saipan, World Resort, Palms Resort, Marianas Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, Marianas Resort, Tinian Dynasty, Coral Ocean Point, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Saipan Grand Hotel.

However, only the first eight hotels to register will be allowed to compete in the event.

The Hotel Olympics is a project of PIC's F&B department and part of its proceeds will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

The Hotel Olympics will begin with the bike relay on Nov. 20 with races to start and end at the south parking lot of PIC. The bike relay will have riders cruising the Airport Road then back to PIC. Each team must have four riders with each rider completing the race from and to PIC's parking lot.

The basketball game will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, also on Nov. 20 with each team allowed to have a maximum of 12 players.

The dodgeball and beach volleyball competitions will take place at PIC on Nov. 21. Each team must have 10 members for the dodgeball and four for the beach volleyball.

Teams will be awarded points based on how they finished in each event. Points will be added with the hotel to gain the most points from the four sports taking the perpetual championship trophy. Runner-up and third place teams will receive medals.

Entrance fee is only $300 per hotel. Each hotel is allowed to have a maximum of 20 players, two of which should be female.

To register or for more information, contact Bartolo at 235-6231 extension 5184 or 5185 or at 287-4987.

TWIN

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weekend after bowing to Digno, 22-20, 21-17, 21-10.

Santos completed the singles winners on Saturday with his 21-12, 21-14 victory over Paul Navarro.

In the doubles division, Jorge Olanda and Marlene Peraja went 3-0 on Friday and Saturday. The duo downed Daniel Macario and Shirley Kim on Friday, 21-19, 21-16, then won two more on Saturday.

Olanda and Peraja beat Savellano and Camille Samonte in their first game on Saturday, 21-19, 21-10, then pulled off a 24-22, 18-21, 21-12 triumph against Efren Cacdac and Anna Rose Omori.

Other doubles winners on Saturday were Joey Algenio and Riza Yutuc, Santos and Omori, Cordero and Cheng Saturno, Bandoja and Malasarte, Puy Macario and Annette Quiambao.

On Friday, only four doubles matches were played.

Algenio and Yutuc went the distance against the pair of Ezekiel Macario and Merlie Tolentino in the mixed doubles C, 21-18, 17-21, 21-18.

Tolentino and Ezekiel Macario had back-to-back games on Friday night and also lost against Puy Macario and Quiambao, 21-12, 15-21, 19-21.

The two other doubles matches were decided shortly with Elna Curate and Rodwealth Espana downing Luis Camacho and his partner, 21-13, 21-13, and Galvez and Ito winning over Santos and Anna Rose Omori, 22-20, 21-13.

NMASA

From Page 28

gible for the 2011 event under the current PCG rules. Lawn tennis and table tennis players in the CNMI are hoping to benefit from the "grandfathering system."

The charter was amended at the PCG Assembly in Rarotonga on Sept. 22, 2008, stipulating that only those who meet the citizenship/residency requirement are eligible to compete in the Mini Games and Pacific Games.

According to the PCG Charter, "citizen" means the holder of a current valid and applicable passport of the country/territory the athlete represents. "Residency" means that the athlete shall be a citizen of the country/territory the athlete represents and have resided for not less than five years [cumulatively, whether consecutively or not]at any time in that country/territory of the PGA [Pacific Games Association].

"For the avoidance of doubt, the temporary absence of an athlete from the country/territory of their citizenship for purposes such as education and sports training, military service and health care, and other legitimate absences of a like kind shall be considered as residency," the charter further stated.

The "applicable passports" for territories are as follows: U.S.—for American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI; New Zealand—for Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau, Australia—for Norfolk Island; and France—for French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, during NMASA's monthly meeting last week, said small countries/territories like the CNMI, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands are in favor of the "grandfathering system."

"The grandfathering system is a fair solution to territories/countries, which are having problems on athletes who are not eligible for the Games under the present Charter. The chances of having amendments on the by-laws, specifically on eligibility rules will depend on the votes of 22 PGA members," White said.

Changes in the PGC Charter need two-thirds majority vote of those PGAs present and entitled to vote.

ART

From Page 28

Trench Warz XI: Redemption, which will be held on Dec. 4 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Trench Tech has already scheduled six mixed martial arts events for 2010 beginning with Rites of Passage VIII: Fearless set for Jan. 29.

It will be followed by Trench Warz XII: Battle Brawl on April 23, Art of War V on June 18, Rites of Passage IX: Indestructible on July 30, Trench Warz XIII: Vengeance on Nov. 19, and Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night on Dec. 31.

Trench Tech's last event was Trench Warz X: Collision last July 31 and saw Saipan fighters draw level with their more experienced rivals from Guam.

It was an eventful evening with the local boys needing to dig themselves out of a 3-5 hole to force the deadlock.

Heavyweights Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas came to the rescue in the fight card's last two matches. The former reasserted his dominance over Manny "The Enforcer" Chong in the main event and the latter bloodied Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao so badly that ring doctor Bill Weiss had to call an end to their semi main event bout. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

G-STARS

From Page 28

the team's gloomy start.

However, the Joe Diaz-coached Rollers 1 still fell behind by double-digits at halftime, as it scored only two field goals in the last five minutes of the first half after Suda's successive points.

G-Stars' big men Luis Byung and Joseph Jung canned two buckets apiece in the closing minutes of the first half, while Nicole Lebria made it to the scoreboard on her long baseline jumper to keep the wide gap.

Dan Mateo paced the G-Stars' first half-attack with his eight points, while eight of his teammates at least drilled a basket apiece.

Meanwhile, the 24-second shot clock had already been fixed yesterday, allowing the game between the Kagman Sparks and Celtics to push through.

The Sparks were gunning for a 3-0 start, while the Celtics were hoping to enter the win column after two faltered attempts.

Tonight, the Saints will duel Ol'Aces, while Thursday's double-header will have 670 Rollers 2 colliding against the Sonics in the first game and the Runnin' Rebels meeting the Sixers in the second match. On Friday, Hi-Five will duel the Young 670 Rollers 3.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	89	50	.640	–
Boston	79	58	.577	9
Tampa Bay	72	66	.522	16 1/2
Toronto	61	76	.445	27
Baltimore	56	81	.409	32

Central Division

Detroit	75	61	.551	–
Minnesota	69	68	.504	6 1/2
Chicago	69	70	.496	7 1/2
Cleveland	60	76	.441	15
Kansas City	52	85	.380	23 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	81	55	.596	–
Texas	76	60	.559	5
Seattle	72	66	.522	10
Oakland	61	76	.445	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	77	58	.570	–
Florida	72	65	.526	6
Atlanta	70	67	.511	8
New York	62	75	.453	16
Washington	47	90	.343	31

Central Division

St. Louis	82	57	.590	–
Chicago	69	67	.507	11 1/2
Houston	67	70	.489	14
Milwaukee	66	71	.482	15
Cincinnati	63	74	.460	18
Pittsburgh	54	82	.397	26 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	82	57	.590	–
Colorado	78	60	.565	3 1/2
San Francisco	76	62	.551	5 1/2
Arizona	61	78	.439	21
San Diego	61	78	.439	21

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 2
Houston 4, Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 0
Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 2
San Francisco 9, San Diego 4
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 1, 1st game
Minnesota 6, Toronto 3
Chicago White Sox 5, Boston 1
Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 3
Texas at Cleveland, ppd., rain
N.Y. Yankees 11, Tampa Bay 1, 2nd game

DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

NORTON, Massachussets (AP) – Scores Monday from the $7.5 million Deutsche Bank Championship at the 7,202-yard, par-71 TPC Boston course:

FINAL

Steve Stricker (2500), $1,350,000	63-72-65-67–267
Jason Dufner (1250), $660,000	66-69-68-65–268
Scott Verplank (1250), $660,000	65-68-68-67–268
Angel Cabrera (600), $310,000	65-69-70-65–269
Dustin Johnson (600), $310,000	68-65-70-66–269
Padraig Harrington (600), $310,000	67-67-67-68–269
Geoff Ogilvy (450), $251,250	66-68-70-66–270
Jim Furyk (400), $217,500	63-67-73-68–271
Sean O'Hair (400), $217,500	66-64-70-71–271
Retief Goosen (400), $217,500	65-67-68-71–271
Tiger Woods (315), $165,000	70-67-72-63–272
John Senden (315), $165,000	69-64-70-69–272
Jerry Kelly (315), $165,000	66-69-67-70–272
Kevin Na (315), $165,000	69-66-66-71–272
Bill Haas (273), $123,750	69-66-72-66–273
Marc Leishman (273), $123,750	70-62-72-69–273
Matt Kuchar (273), $123,750	65-71-68-69–273
Kevin Sutherland (273), $123,750	68-65-69-71–273
Charlie Wi (253), $94,125	71-64-72-67–274
Zach Johnson (253), $94,125	68-71-67-68–274
Jason Day (253), $94,125	68-66-72-68–274
Justin Leonard (253), $94,125	65-68-72-69–274
Stephen Ames (235), $72,000	67-73-69-66–275
Mike Weir (235), $72,000	68-65-72-70–275
Jeff Overton (235), $72,000	69-66-70-70–275
Sergio Garcia (225), $60,000	70-71-68-67–276
Phil Mickelson (210), $53,250	71-68-72-66–277
Pat Perez (210), $53,250	70-65-75-67–277
Steve Marino (210), $53,250	70-68-71-68–277
Charley Hoffman (210), $53,250	69-69-70-69–277
Mark Wilson (210), $53,250	70-69-66-72–277
Brandt Snedeker (188), $43,406	70-70-71-67–278
Bubba Watson (188), $43,406	68-71-71-68–278
Kevin Streelman (188), $43,406	70-68-71-69–278
Jason Bohn (188), $43,406	73-67-69-69–278
Woody Austin (153), $31,538	67-70-74-68–279
Greg Chalmers (153), $31,538	67-70-74-68–279
Scott Piercy (153), $31,538	67-69-74-69–279
David Toms (153), $31,538	67-69-73-70–279
Lucas Glover (153), $31,538	69-68-72-70–279
Troy Matteson (153), $31,538	66-71-72-70–279
Scott McCarron (153), $31,538	70-70-69-70–279
Bryce Molder (153), $31,538	67-69-72-71–279
Anthony Kim (153), $31,538	71-70-67-71–279
Hunter Mahan (153), $31,538	73-66-69-71–279
Nick Watney (120), $21,850	71-69-71-69–280
Kenny Perry (120), $21,850	69-72-69-70–280
Mathew Goggin (120), $21,850	71-69-69-71–280
Bob Estes (100), $18,510	70-71-71-69–281
D.A. Points (100), $18,510	69-70-73-69–281
Brian Davis (100), $18,510	67-70-73-71–281
Davis Love III (100), $18,510	69-70-71-71–281
Michael Letzig (100), $18,510	68-68-73-72–281
Justin Rose (73), $17,025	69-70-77-66–282
Luke Donald (73), $17,025	69-72-72-69–282
Boo Weekley (73), $17,025	68-69-74-71–282
Brian Gay (73), $17,025	70-67-73-72–282
Vijay Singh (73), $17,025	67-72-70-73–282
Charles Howell III (73), $17,025	68-69-71-74–282
Daniel Chopra (55), $16,500	67-71-73-72–283
Briny Baird (38), $15,975	73-67-74-70–284
J.J. Henry (38), $15,975	72-68-74-70–284
Jonathan Byrd (38), $15,975	67-74-71-72–284
Greg Owen (38), $15,975	69-69-73-73–284
Camilo Villegas (38), $15,975	70-69-71-74–284
Brett Quigley (38), $15,975	70-69-71-74–284
Y.E. Yang (20), $15,450	71-70-69-75–285
J.B. Holmes (15), $15,300	72-67-71-77–287
Ben Crane (7), $15,000	73-68-78-69–288
D.J. Trahan (7), $15,000	71-70-76-71–288
Fredrik Jacobson (7), $15,000	70-68-77-73–288
Richard S. Johnson (5), $14,700	68-72-75-74–289
Ryuji Imada (5), $14,550	74-66-75-81–296

FedExCup points in parentheses

By The Associated Press

12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament Banquet

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian and Saipan players pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the awards banquet for the 12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament at the Saipan World Resort.

Doubles winners Jean Shi, center, and Young Soon Roh, right, pose with MATTA president and awards ceremony host Steve Lim.

Tinian players receive the championship trophy after beating Saipan, 35-29.

Saipan players pose with their runner-up trophy.

Tinian's Alfred Yue, left, and Liang Wei Bin, right, receive the championship trophy from MATTA president Steve Lim, center.

Saipan guest player Hisamitsu Hamamoto of Guam, center, joins Korean Ping-Pong Association's Tae Won Park, left, and Steve Lim in holding the runner-up trophy.

Mark Ma, right, won the singles competition after going undefeated in eight games.

Jean Shi, left, receives her third place trophy from MATTA president Steve Lim.

Luke Lu, right, settled for second place despite being unbeaten in eight games, as he gave up two sets in his singles matches.

Brothers Robin, center, and Luke Lu took the runner-up award in the doubles competition with their 3-1 record.

PIC resets Hotel Olympics for a Cause

Pacific Islands Club has rescheduled the inaugural 2009 Hotel Olympics for a Cause from this next weekend to November. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US teen Oudin knocks off another seed

When Melanie Oudin wakes up each morning these days, sharing a king-sized hotel bed with her mother, she's basically your average teen visiting the big city. **24**

Twin wins for Aguda, Vales

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Macoi Aguda and Roger Vales strengthened their semifinals bid in the singles division of the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament after posting twin wins over the weekend at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

Aguda, who is playing in the men's A singles, first defeated Gary Bandoja in straight sets on Friday, 21-9, 21-16, and made it back-to-back with a 21-18, 21-13 triumph over Robert Reyes on Saturday.

Vales duplicated Aguda's feat as the former prevailed over Alfred Acosta, 21-18, 21-15, and Paul Navarro, 21-15, 15-21, 21-17, in the men's B singles on Monday.

Also recording singles wins on Friday were Acosta, Lucelle Lampera, Ferdie Arago, Reyes, and Manatsu Omori

Acosta after losing to Vales, recovered against Aries Cordero, 21-16, 21-15, while Lampera won the lone game in the women's singles B against Malou Malasarte, 21-17, 21-14.

Arago also had a straight sets win over Daniel Macario in the men's A singles, while Omori needed three sets to thwart Chris Hilario in the men's C division, 21-11, 17-21, 21-11.

Reyes, before losing to Aguda on Saturday, won his Friday game against Edwin Montoya, 21-19, 21-17.

Still in singles matches on Saturday, Andrew Galvez, Malasarte, Jojo Savellano, James Digno, and Noli Santos prevailed over their respective foes.

Galvez handed Montoya back-to-back losses via a 21-14, 21-14 victory in the men's A singles, while Malasarte booked her second triumph of the weekend after thumping Angie Ito, 21-18, 21-17.

Savellano sent Acosta to a two-game losing skid after eking out a 21-14, 19-21, 21-11 victory. Several hours later, Acosta absorbed his third loss in the

See TWIN on Page 26

Malou Malasarte hits a volley during her and Roger Vales' mixed doubles match against Aries Cordero and Cheng Saturno in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament over the weekend at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMASA hopes 'grandfathering' system adopted for Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is keeping its finger crossed that the Pacific Games Council will adopt the "grandfathering" system on athletes' eligibility rules when the council meets later this month in New Caledonia.

The 2009 PGC General Assembly is set for Sept. 27, six days after the 8th Pacific Mini Games 2009 in Rarotonga kicks off. The Mini Games will run until Oct. 2.

At the assembly, changes in the PGC Charter, including those concerning eligibility rules, will be introduced and amended.

The grandfathering system aims to allow athletes who had already competed in the past Mini Games and Pacific Games to participate in the 2011 Pacific Mini Games in Noumea, New Caledonia

The CNMI is among those pushing for the "grandfathering system," as it has athletes who had been to previous games, but will not be eli-

See NMASA on Page 26

G-Stars lead Rollers I in suspended game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The G-Stars' bid for their third straight win had to wait for a couple more days as their game against Rollers I in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was suspended due to a malfunctioning 24-second shot clock.

The shot clock did not work at the start of the second half, prompting organizers to call off the match and reschedule it on a later date. The G-Stars, who won over Chalan Kanoa Saints in Week 1 and against Ol'Aces in Week 2, seemed headed for a third consecutive win, as they were ahead by 15 points, 28-13, at halftime.

The Jose Tumaquip-mentored squad stepped on the gas pedal early, taking a 20-2 lead at the halfway mark of the first half. Each half in the Rotary caging is played for 20 minutes, using a running time in the first 18 minutes.

John Palacios gave Rollers I its lone field goal in the first 10 minutes of the game before Magavier Suda scored six straight points and put some light on

See G-STARS on Page 26

The G-Stars' Rodney Salas, center, pulls up for a jumper against Rollers I's Richard Wang, left, and Heartim Williams during their suspended game in the Rotary caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Art of War returns Oct. 10

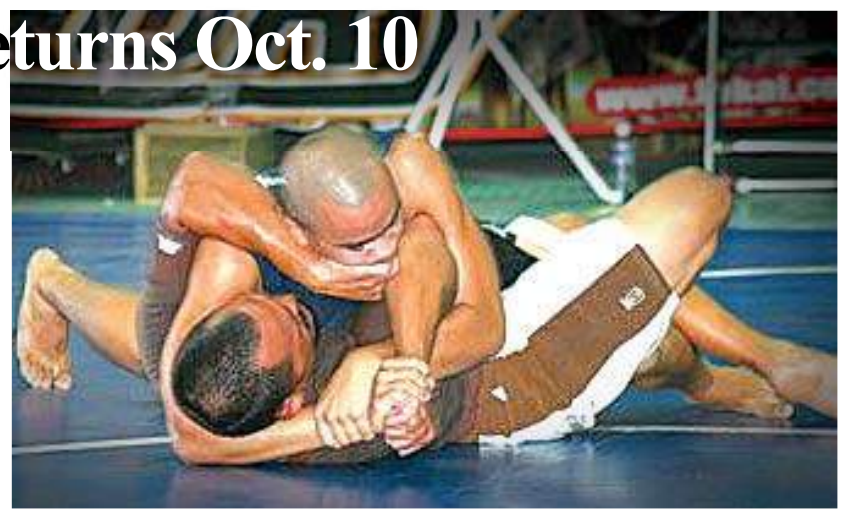
Trench Tech Purebred Gym will have its next gig when it hosts Art of War IV All-Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge on Oct. 10.

Cuki Alvarez, Trench Tech president and promoter extraordinaire, said the fight club is currently looking for fighters who would like to take part in the event.

He said those interested can sign up at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas from 5pm to 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

Art of War IV will be precursor for

See ART on Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Trench Tech's Sixtus Aquino, bottom, tries to wiggle out of T.J. Castro's choke hold in their welterweight division bronze medal match in Art of War II.